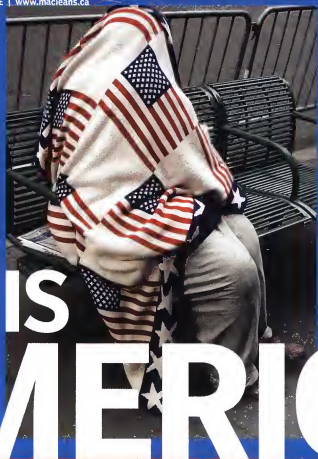


THE PLEASE-EVERYONE BUDGET | WALTER GRETZKY ON THE NHL

MACLEAN'S

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE | www.macleans.ca

MARCH 7 2005



IS AMERICA GOING BROKE?

Record deficits. Colossal debt. If the U.S. sinks, Canada will go down with it.

BY STEVE MAICH

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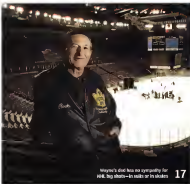
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GOODBYE TO ALL THIS

This is a great job. But there are things that matter more—and a right time to go.

IN THE THREE-MONTH period before taking this job in early 2001, my father died and my son was born. So from the day I first sat in this chair, I understood that however compelling a job this was—and that was surely the case—this, in the end, is lower down on the list of things that really matter.

Now that it's time to move to other things (a decision announced in January), I've been

reflecting, again, from the back end of this equation—about related lessons. The best and worst things about journalism are the same: it involves people reporting and making judgments about other people, with all the joys, flaws, prejudices and common opinions that implies. We often talk about journalism as a "profession," but, of course, that's not true. Journalists—who pass a bar exam and get licensed as professionals, so are doctors, architects, engineers and anyone who works in a field with standard, non-negotiable requirements for qualifications and conduct. It's a detour to journalism and news consumers alike to describe the business in such fashion, because you can't hold yourself to the same measure to regulate a job primarily defined by human interaction. Still, these are healthy times for journalism—because we don't have the same power we once did. There are more and more different forms of news media than ever, even as consumers are more important and discerning. People and content that true objectivity is almost impossible to achieve, and that if you want to really understand an issue, you should seek out a variety of sources rather than just one medium. And in a wired world, consumers can complain immediately if they distrust the information in front of them—in a way that's new to any era yet.

On a personal level, it's a good time to have worked for a national magazine run by women—Maclean's founder initially and then Rogers Communications—who allowed their journalism to travel the world while paying the bills uncompromisingly and without interfering. Thanks to Maclean's, I've reported from more than 30 countries, visited every province and territory, and covered everything from rock concerts to revolutions. This travel turned me into a

relaxer, rather than a simply never been a better time to be Canadian.

The last while has been especially rich emotionally, both for the chance to say farewell to Maclean's staff—I'll miss them all more than they know—and for the many new constants from readers (acknowledging them, complaining that I lack too much in my phone). Even some snippy pieces in which I've been perceived as personally attacking because they were written voraciously by people who tried to get a job here and failed, or by someone who waited his friend to get my job four years ago—as he could work here, journalists can be very personal.

But Maclean's, in its necessary, easily-overlooked such petty stuff, so no peace in that. My last fishes, a state of impeccable manners, used to say that when it's time to go, "always leave 'em laughing" and don't destroy your welcome. I like to think I'm following his advice—although after 15 years here, you could argue the contrary. No matter what I'll remember is what a wonderful ride it's been. Thank you all so much. And now—this time for real—goodbye.

Anthony Wilson-Smith

Original/Newsweek is covered in The Editor's Letter

MACLEAN'S

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Editor

Anthony Wilson-Smith

Executive Editor

Michael Ondaatje

Managing Editor

Michael Ondaatje

Editorial Assistant

Michael Ondaatje

Editorial Assistant

Michael Ondaatje

Editorial Assistant

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MACLEAN'S BEHIND THE SCENES



IN CONVERSATION WITH MACLEAN'S

Canadians across the country can soon sit in on informal conversations among some of the world's most accomplished and recognized thinkers, heroes, filmmakers and entertainers. In *Conversation With Maclean's*: Presented by Dynamic Funds, is just one of the ways Maclean's is celebrating its 100th year of publishing.

Maclean's will host the first event, *The Director's Chair*, in Vancouver on March 14. Maclean's film critic Brian D. Johnson (left) will be joined by award-winning filmmaker Alton Egoian (centre) and actor/producer/director Paul Gross (right). Participants will have a chance to find out what inspires Egoian and Gross and how they each envision the future.

The second event, *Fighters and Heroes*, will take place in Calgary on April 20. Maclean's Contributing Editor Arthur Kent will host a conversation with Maj.-Gen. (Ret.) Lewis MacKenzie, diplomat and activist Stephen Lewis and Lt.-Gen. (Ret.) Ramo Delaive.

"As Canada's weekly newsmagazine, Maclean's is thrilled to be hosting a first-of-its-kind series of conversations with the nation's most innovative and fascinating personalities," says Associate Publisher Deborah Trepianier. "These are truly amazing people who continue to influence change both at home and abroad."

Tickets for *The Director's Chair* are available through Ticketmaster at 604-290-2111 or by visiting www.ticketmaster.ca. The cost is \$37.50 plus service charge for adults and \$26.75 plus service charge for students and seniors.

Announcements regarding tickets and dates for future events in Ottawa in May, Halifax in June and Toronto in September will soon follow.

Highlights of *In Conversation With Maclean's*: Presented by Dynamic Funds will be available at www.macleans.ca/m100 after every show.

Help shape what's inside Maclean's by registering as a member of the Maclean's Advisory Panel at www.macleans.ca/aps. For further information about this article, contact behindthescenes@macleans.ca.

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'No salary cap, no salary. No owners, no agents. Fans who can interact with players. Real jobs, real life. Curling—an honest sport available to all.'

—Mikayla Gennell, *Kyrene Mills, Ont.*

Gulling me softly

Your cover story on environmentalism embedded with ads for TV's new tricks to sell you stuff. Feb. 21 has reinforced my opinion to make marketing savvy children. We need to ensure that the next generation can spot the advertising in their entertainment, clothing and food. The day my son said, "You know, mom, they say the toy in the box's ear to tell you to take me there," I knew I was making some headway. Now, as the lines between programming and advertising become more and more blurred, I'll have to teach them to be aware of the less obvious marketing. Go.

Kathleen Murphy, Bross, Ont.

As a high school teacher, I read with interest that people from the age of 15 to 34 are "becoming a high interest for targeted ads" because young people have grown up surrounded by brands. The fact that corporations are facing themselves less every aspect of society should not be something to which we succumb. At my school, we now depend on the revenues from soft-drink vending machines, and our principal has introduced over the 10 that don't allow "our school's official" soft drinks. As a recent graduate ceremony, the same draft paraphrase



was provided "and push" with an appeal for the latest blockbuster. If schools and other publicly funded institutions need money, it should be coming from governments, not from corporations with their own agendas. Amy McElroy, Pusan, Ont.

The season of our sinners

I would like to thank the NHL and its players for cancelling the NHL season "Sorry, you don't cut it," hockey, Feb. 20) It is aggressive to think about the values and

values they presented in an hour business would be run. Even if the NHL ever starts up again, I would rather stick to the year games I discovered this year. They can be a lot more fun.

Christy Hefley, Toronto

Not even war has cancelled an NHL season. Now, it was done for money. And money has been the whole issue—not the game, not the passion, not the fans. If the players are so smart and know how to run an NHL franchise, let them buy one and show us how to do it properly.

Lee Heywood, North Vancouver, B.C.

It was not the bucking between the owners and players over salaries that soured my opinion of the NHL. It was the quality of the game. Too many whistles and too many penalties. Even after they brought out this self-inflicted financial quarantine, hockey will still be far from reformed.

Walter Rouse, St. Louis

I will always wear my Canadiana cap with pride. I love Len Corman that much, and I figure I owe my daughter a glimpse of history, a chance to experience a game that has shaped our country as much as our healthcare system, wheat and snow. Here's to hockey in 2015/2016! Go, Habs, go! Nancy Sedore, Montreal

From gold mines to misfields

Steve Mirch's column "Anger's short shot" (Feb. 14) business, Feb. 14) about the new

we look forward to reading and discussing every week.

Jeff and Zoe Brinkley,

Montreal/Chicoutimi, N.S.

When I read your Editor's Letter, it feels as if you and I are having a discussion in my den. Our style is personal, but it's not subjective. Thank you.

Met Darius, St. John's, Nfld.

Your magazine provides enough enlightening news and entertainment for my wife and I that we seldom have need for newspapers or TV. I always appreciate the intelligent articles starting with your Editor's Letter. Thanks for being part of our lives.

Jim and Susan Stockall, Whitman, Ala.



Charles and Camille 30 years ago, one reality until good wishes but no hope to reality

ambivalence toward the corporate sector. Counting standards of a few years ago were very one-sided. Obviously, he is not one of the many people who've had their business lives turned upside down by the regulations proceeding from the corporate bodies. I deplore the acts of those executives who thought their companies were their own personal gold mines. However, having employees spend precious time every month, every quarter and at year-end to think up solutions for internal security does little to ensure that threat will not occur again. It only overstates the public accounting resources. And that's why their newspapers of obituary the rules to allow companies to go about their business and make money for everyone.

Opel Mirch, Fort St. John, Alta.

The King and I

While I am glad that Prince Charles is finally marrying his mistress "Happily ever after" (Royalty, Feb. 21), I must say he never got to be my king. I am a Canadian with loyalty to Canada only. I have no loyalty to the monarchy in any way or form.

Robert Macleod, Vancouver, B.C.

How interesting that

Princess Diana's death was a tragedy. How interesting that Pamela Treble characterizes Camille Parker Bowles as a feminist "divorcee." It is sure that the future Duchess

of Cornwall is made individually distinct, as well as capable of preserving peace and silence. Sandra Whipple, Vancouver

Taking our medicine

I have one small point to make about Donald Case's otherwise excellent essay, "Pain of the pill makers" (Feb. 21). I disagree that the annual increase in projected life spans will shrink or disappear in supplies of new blockbuster drugs do the same. My sense is that people are unaccustomed to adopt healthy lifestyles because they overestimate the efficacy of new developments in medicine to prolong the quality and length of their lives. Hopefully, with a sober assessment of what medicine can really offer, we will become more invested in living healthily.

Opel Mirch, Fort St. John, Alta.

People are unaccustomed to adopt healthy lifestyles because they overestimate the efficacy of drugs

After reading Danyla Haidich's piece on discount prescription drugs online ("Odds of a drug buy," *Business*, Feb. 21), I would like to say that free access to drugs should be a goal for all Canadians because the drug industry is a major source of profit for the pharmaceutical industry. The drug industry is a major source of profit for the pharmaceutical industry. The drug industry is a major source of profit for the pharmaceutical industry.

pharmaceuticals have found a profitable way to operate while employing a local workforce, allowing access to affordable drugs for those less fortunate while remaining within the law, why should corporate profits get in the way? Big Pharma: stay out!

Joan Hosh, Toronto, Ont.

Teeling off Canadians

I was not amused by Jean Charest's commentary at the Gannett inquiry ("A relay road ahead," *Politics*, Feb. 21). I thought I was used to his arrogance, but it seems he has reached a new level since he left office. The horse starts with the golf balls rock unbelievable noise. Charest was not content at all and passed the buck again on the sponsorship scandal. Moreover, he continued to make the case that the whole thing was about fighting separatism. That's not only the last refuge of scoundrels.

Joan Hosh, Toronto

The Canadian who played John Charest's performance before the Gannett commission should realize that his display of disrespect was far from the only one. He was and is a disgrace to the Canadian people.

Paul Charest, Montreal, N.B.

I was not surprised in the least at the tens of millions made by their past prove was not or either Prime Minister. They achieved nothing and no nothing.

Gerard Gauthier, Highgate, Ont.

Kindred spirits

Thanks for the articles on two great Canadiana: your Feb. 16 issue. The obvious one was Curbery, Man, Bush pilot and First World War soldier (Feb. 16). My wife, whose mother-in-law was a pilot, was a pilot in the "Wings of a hero," (History) Feb. 16). He has been an American, a movie movie would have been made about his extraordinary life. Less obvious was the Q & A with the Prime Minister's parish priest, Father John Walsh (The Maclean's Interview). Most Montserratians know Father Walsh as a gifted cleric who is constantly working for the welfare of people, along with interfaith dialogue and understanding. An enthusiastic Catholic, he has ministered to many church teachings in modern times, as was demonstrated by his own career in same-sex marriage.

Bob Franklin, Montreal

Fond farewells

In the Jan. 24 issue of *Maclean's*, Editor Anthony Wilson Smith announced his resignation. Smith's resignation is a loss with good wishes. A sampling to mark his final week.

I always read your editorials and, even when I disagreed with you, they gave me pause for thought. Please know that I will miss your contributions.

Margaret Wells, Kingston, N.S.

I always read your editorials and, even when I disagreed with you, they gave me pause for thought. Please know that I will miss your contributions.

Margaret Wells, Kingston, N.S.

carefully written in a non-judgmental way. I don't believe there is a better editorial in any other magazine in Canada. You will be much missed in this house.

Joan Hosh, Toronto, Ont.

The Editor's Letter is the first thing I read every week. You have steered the magazine well, and under your guidance this readability highlights in the Canadian magazine. This will be missed.

Joan Hosh, Toronto, Ont.

We were distraught to read you are leaving *Maclean's*, but we decided to take the glass-half-full approach and be thankful for having been able to read your column for the past four years. In all the magazine subscriptions we've received, your column is the only one

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UPFRONT

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Defence | Martin dodges the Americans' missile system

Flash forward a few years: Should Obama bin Laden buy himself a long-range missile and launch it at the United States from, say, his hideout in the wilds of Afghanistan or perhaps a merchant ship in the North Atlantic, that missile would fly over Canadian airspace. Now, assume the U.S. has its much-debated shield working. (And that's a big assumption: counter-missile tests have actually missed their mark though the Pentagon reported a successful "kill" of a practice missile last week near Hawaii.) No Canadians will be in the room when the decision is taken where to attack the incoming missile. Over the N.W.T.'s Northern Saskatchewan? How close to Halifax?

That's the upshot of Paul Martin's long-awaited decision not to participate in Washington's missile defence program. Though it wasn't always his position in 2003, while campaigning for the Liberal leadership, he said, "If a missile is going over Canadian airspace, I want to be at the table." Now, as leader of a minority government, whose caucus is hugely divided on the

ambassador-to-be McKenna got off to a discordant start, noting that Canada was already involved through NORAD

proposals (and fearful of being outflanked by the NDP at the next election), he opted out. It's not an in-defensible position. Canadians have long been wary of American nuclear might, and there is a good argument missile defence will only lead to an arms race in space.

Still, there was something hugely awkward about the Liberal decision last week. No sooner had ambassador-to-be Frank McKenna noted Canada was already involved in missile defence—by the agreement last August to share NORAD intelligence—than the government scrambled madly to close off full debate with a quick announcement, made to a largely empty Commons.

Washington is a demanding city. Why wouldn't Canadians want to be in the room when important (or crucial) decisions are taken? It's the land of question a full parliamentary debate would have answered.

ScoreCard

MARTIN'S MISLAND
Prime Minister Dion left an ill-informed Ontario opponent Steve Menzies to make a slip rather than see his own state. First, he made a bad tactical move that broke Menzies' neck. Menzies was being because "not good enough" to stop in 1991, instead of 1992. Menzies' opponent just says that there are no teachers.

CLARKSON CUP
On scores of, with Neil, taking a pass, suggests Skelton Cup go to winner of showdown between Canadian and U.S. women's teams, one subline really idea failed to make hockey's stage. World's best team's other

ROYAL RYD
Queen won't attend wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. "I'm not a royal," she says. "I'm a woman." Let's see how she would like to be a woman. Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding was a royal wedding. Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding was a royal wedding.

WILD DEBATE
Canadian's 10th anniversary of 9/11 and 10th anniversary of 9/11. Canadian's 10th anniversary of 9/11 and 10th anniversary of 9/11. Canadian's 10th anniversary of 9/11 and 10th anniversary of 9/11.

Quote of the week | "You don't have to miss by much to have a missile headed towards Canada." A very loud U.S. Ambassador PAUL CLARKSON wonders why the Martin government won't join Washington's missile shield program

Avian influenza viruses could jump the species barrier and spiral into a worldwide pandemic. The UN agency wants developed countries to donate US\$100 million or more to help research the disease where it exists in Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. But most countries, including Canada and the US, have opted to develop their own vaccines to be used in the event of a human variant.

VIOXX Drug maker Merck & Co. may bring back its popular arthritis pain reliever *Vioxx*, pulled from the market last fall after a study showed it contributed to heart attacks. Merck faces nearly 600 lawsuits over the recall and over how much it knew about the drug's side effects. But a special U.S. advisory panel concluded the drug's benefits may outweigh its risks in certain groups.

CANADA

PESTICIDES At least 60 Canadian municipalities have banned lawn pesticides, citing health concerns. But Health Canada said there is no evidence that the most popular pesticide 2,4-D, causes cancer. The department will hold off on ruling on a national ban until late this year.

9.896 Upper with quotas for shrimp, snow crabs, herring and salmon (allocations that have provoked fights with fishermen from other provinces), P.E. I. is taking Ottawa to court over its management of the fisheries

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Finally, Premier McGuinty announces his own offshore oil plans—



We're
drillin'
Paul
Anke

FOOTING BY THE NUMBERS

Handed \$20,000 and told you could spend it only on one of these four items, what would you do? According to a Blackboard/Rogers Media poll:

47%	Pay off debt
20%	Invest in an RRSP
18%	Home renovation
13%	Take a vacation

It is what seems a little counterintuitive: those over 35 are the most likely to put the \$14,000 toward a home redo. Young and middle-aged Canadians, it seems, are the most burdened by debt.

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Philippines, Canada, the U.S., Norway and Australia are leading the drive to find them permanent homes.

RELYING on some legends only glow brighter with age, Montreal Canadiens great Jean Beliveau was one of the best hockey memoirists, along with a set of golf clubs, for almost \$1 million—twice what auctioneers had predicted. Collectors paid \$85,600 for his 1979 Stanley Cup ring and \$53,150 for a game worn jersey. Always the gentleman, Beliveau, 73, put the items on sale for the benefit of his family. He didn't want them to be criticized for selling the items after he died.

NOT AGAIN Indian villagers scuffle through rubble in the search for survivors. A powerful earthquake in remote Burma killed or swallowed lives of more than 500 people. The quake was almost the same size as the one just over a year ago that destroyed Yangon, 250 km away, claiming 20,000 lives.

BOAT PEOPLE Canada will take in about 200 Vietnamese boat people with family here, less than half of what refugee groups had asked for but still a significant gesture. The Vietnamese are part of a contingent of about 2,000 refugees who reached the coastline in the

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IN THE COMMENTS: I would like to request the reader to change the symbol to an arrow, as it is common in the notation of regression. (E-mail: 75714701@icloud.com or see also <http://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/answers/106861-the-symbol-is-wrong>.)

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Mary Janigan | ON THE ISSUES



WISDOM FROM THE GARDEN

The international success of Lee Valley Tools shows that risks are worth taking

BY MY RECKONING, no matter how much snow drifts across the highway, it is spring when a Lee Valley garden tool catalogue arrives at the door. There are pruning shears and plant trays, glass way traps and seed scarifiers. There are even games such as roasting composites that require only a spin to make their thing inside. All are designed in brightly practical, subtly alluring prose. You may not know such a gadget: coast—so suddenly you need it.

And that has earned Lee Valley Tools Ltd. remains an enduring Canadian success story. This year, under the shared eye of founder Leonard Lee and his son, Robin, who is now president, the Ottawa-based firm will claim out 21 different catalogues offering everything from woodworking devices to hardware for customers from New Zealand to the Northwest Territories. As well, there are 11 retail stores merging from Halifax to Vancouver. Imported animal aids are new shipping containers. "He's got a reputation for quality that he has little competition for in his market niche," says Leonard Lee's long-time chief policy guru Shelly Ehrenwerth, who once attended a funeral where the minister thanked the deceased for introducing him to Lee Valley and then respectfully borrowed how much it had cost him.

The creator of this empire is a 66-year-old former federal trade official who seems only could not tolerate bureaucracy. Born in a Saskatchewan farm where "we focused on being poor," he joined the firm as the force to get an education. But, as a pilot in training, he was always attracted to the wind to connect.

In 1978, fed up with stippling rules, he quit the civil service, took out three mortgages on his house and used his childhood woodworking expertise to design carpentry tools. Even today, the firm devotes and makes about one-third of its products.

Leonard Lee and his wife, Lorraine, display those tools to grow everything from peas to 140-lb pumpkins on their 30-hectare farm near Ottawa. He remains self-deprecating, freely acknowledging he was a founding member of the prestigious Public Policy Forum and an ongoing financial crisis. When costs for the hapless gun registry skyrocketed, he doubly observed that his firm already had the perfect software to service millions of owners. ("Their quiver was just mass.") And when a handful of rogue MPs slammed U.S. foreign policy in scathing personal terms last year, he watched his sales flourish with his open mind—because 35 per cent is a shipload. "I never wanted free trade," he says. "But we are now locked tightly into this economy. Why shut us Americans out?"

His life's third act is another gamble. Four years ago, an Ottawa police surgeon shocked by confused that he said Lee Valley's barely heard law on the job—because basic medical tools like scalpels had not evolved much over the past century. Reuniting the doctor as an adviser, Lee set up Carica Design, which has created innovative surgical decontaminant as scalpels with retractable blades, as well as kits with electrical bands and study pads to tell huge wounds.

The master sees a clear moral in his experience. "Students come through a risk-averse education where even the teachers want to be safe," Lee says. "I tell them to take a risk because it is exciting. And if you really like what you are doing, you can do well." Spring may have come early to my household. But in Lee's life, it never rains.

Mary Janigan is a political and policy writer. mary.janigan@canwestmagazine.com

Passages

RENOUNCE A Federal Court judge ruled Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel, 65, is a near-hypocrite and a "denier to the international community," clearing the way for him to be deported from Toronto to Germany, where he faces hate crime charges.

DIED Armed with a big dream and a \$125 grant from the city of Stratford, Ont., where he grew up, Tom Patterson somehow founded the first Festival in 1952, now the largest classical theatre operation in North America with annual revenues of about \$360 million. A way, he liked journalists who could write the way he wanted to do something for his hometown, Patterson died in a Toronto hospital at 84.

RETURNING One of Canada's most notorious criminals and murderers—he killed an acquaintance to assume his identity—Albert Walker, 58, is being returned from England to complete his life sentence in Canada. Ontario police intend to charge him with 37 outstanding counts of theft when he was a financial adviser in Paris, Ont.

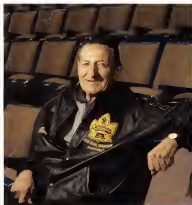
AXED The last book by victim of the hockey lockout—the CBC laid off popular play-by-play announcer Chris Cuthbert, 47, the voice of the well-loved Hockey Night in Canada broadcasts, as well as the Grey Cup. The sharpshooter left came just before Cuthbert was to cover the world figure skating championships.

SETBACK After only four issues, Time Inc. in New York City snubbed its own fashion mag, *Style*, per project of Canadian magazine editor Suzanne Boyd, the former editor of *Flare*.

DIED Toronto-born actor (Hag) Larabee, a veteran of the Stratford stage and musicals such as *Beauty and the Beast*, died of cancer in a Pittsburgh hospital. He was 65.



THE MACLEAN'S INTERVIEW



Hockey | WALTER GRETZKY

‘I FEEL SORRY FOR THOSE COMING OUT OF JUNIOR A TO NO NHL’

HE IS THE WORLD'S most famous hockey dad. Ever since he flooded his backyard in Stratford, Ont., to create a rink for his two oldest sons, Walter Gretzky has been crucial in creating the greatest hockey legend of all time. Now, at 66, he's stepping into the spotlight alone. *Waking Up Nasty: The Walter Gretzky Story* wrapped up shooting last month in Edmonton and will air on the CBC this fall. The film is based on Walter's bestselling memoir documenting his struggle back from a near fatal stroke in 1991, which erased two decades of memories, including most of Wayne's NHL glory years.

Did you ever imagine you'd have a movie made about you?
Never. It's incredible. It's amazing.

You've reached back for many years. How do you deal with all those stories of aggressive hockey parents?

It's very sad. I say to them: the next time you find yourself screaming at your son or daughter because their team isn't playing well, come to the hospital when I give out roddy beans and poems of Wayne. Come and see kids who don't have eyes, arms or legs. You'll never scream at your child again.

Have parents' actions gotten worse?
Oh, absolutely. We had one lady at a recent tournament who physically attacked the referee after a game. She was taken to the police station in handcuffs. Now, it doesn't matter about her, but I guarantee you her 12-year-old son won't be playing hockey because the other kids will be saying, "Is the paddy wagon here for your mom today?"

As a boy, Wayne faced taunts from some parents for being so good. How did he react?
He cried. Because kids hear what people say in the stands. It says with them forever.

A lot of Canadians are missing their hockey fix. How about you?
Oh, it's sad. Here's the way I see it: It doesn't matter about those millionaire owners or players. The people I feel sorry for are the ones missing out of Junior A at the age of 20 or 21 and there's no NHL. Neither side is being reasonable, and we are all the losers.

Even before the lockout, many people said the NHL had become too dull and predictable. You don't use offensive powerhouses like the Edmonton Oilers or Wayne's days.
No, it's much more defensive. It's still good, but I liked it the way it was.

Having all money of Wayne's glory years erased seems like an incredible loss. How do you feel about it?
It would be nice to remember. But I don't get frustrated. I've just gotten on with life. I used to smoke at least a pack a day, quit. I want to worry about things. I had sleep, cocaine headaches. I don't worry more. They second is precious to the now.

You've recognized wherever you go. What's the strangest request you've ever got?
This woman, at her 80th birthday, asks for my autograph. I say, "You got something to write on?" She says, "Yes," and she gives her blouse. She had nothing on underneath.

You didn't want Wayne to make in 1990, and you've been after him about making a comeback. Any lack?
None. When he finished, he finished. And he's never, ever regretted his decision.

How do you feel about that decision now?
He did the right thing. No doubt about it.
GILAN BERENMAN



Is America going broke?

Record deficits, colossal debt and no clear plan for digging itself out. If the U.S. sinks, writes STEVE MAICH, it will take Canada down with it.

DAVID WALKER CAN SEE THE FUTURE, AND IT SCARES THE HELL OUT OF HIM.

That wouldn't be terribly unusual if he were one of the thousands of lobbyists, legislators and activists crawling all over Washington on any given day, postulating about the urgency of their pet issues. There is a thriving industry here built on pushing policy prescriptions for every ailment, real or imagined. But Walker isn't a lobbyist or an activist, he's an accountant. His title is comptroller general of the United States, which makes him the head without fat the most important and powerful government in the world. And he's desperately trying to get a message out to anyone who'll listen: the United States of America's public finances are a shambles. They're getting rapidly worse. And if nothing major isn't done soon to solve the country's unsustainable budget problems, the world will face an economic shakeup unlike anything ever seen before.

Seated in his wood-paneled office in downtown Washington, Walker recounts his words, trying to walk the fine line between raising an alarm and fostering panic. He cringes when he hears prominent economists warning about a financial "Armageddon," but he shakes his head about the fact the situation is dire. "I don't like using words that are overly inflammatory," he says, leaning forward in his chair. "At the same time, I think it is critically important that the American people, as well as their elected representatives, get a better understanding of just how serious our situation is."

U.S. debt

US\$7.7 trillion

= US\$26,000 for every American
(Canada's debt works out to C\$16,000 a head)

THE NUMBERS are staggering—a US\$43 trillion hole in America's public finances that's getting worse every day. But the stakes are almost immeasurable for a generation of politicians and voters used to relative prosperity, who've never known severe economic hardship. But that plunk North American lifestyle to which we're all grown accustomed has been bought on credit, and the bill is rapidly rising, as due date. If the United States can't find a way to pay up, the world will split beyond national borders, spreading economic misery far and wide. In Canada, the country whose financial well-

as, debt on debt is not good. We have to first stop digging, and then figure out how we're going to fill the hole."

HOW DID THE U.S. GET INTO THIS MESS?

In January 2001, George W. Bush took over leadership of a nation that was on its most solid financial footing in decades, thanks to years of strong economic growth and a booming stock market. That very month, the Congressional Budget Office projected that the federal government could expect US\$5.6 trillion in surplus over the coming 10 years.

so grow much faster. Laurence Kotlikoff, a professor of economics at Boston University and a prominent critic of U.S. budgetary planning, released a paper that year drawing attention to what he called the CBO's "fiscal fantasy." But he was a single, lonely voice, and few on Capitol Hill were listening. The tax-cut agenda had taken hold, and there would be no stopping it.

The CBO and other skeptics have since gone back and found that a more realistic surplus projection would have been US\$3.2 trillion—over 60 per cent less than initially thought. And that cushion quickly disap-



Foreign investors can't go on forever supporting U.S. spending. A banker who holds your mortgage and car loan will get nervous if you keep coming back to up your credit card limit.

being is most likely not to trade with the U.S., there wouldn't be a single region or industry left unscathed by a fiscal shock south of the border.

It's the looming patience of this personal crisis that brings Walker to this office every day, through the doorway with the words "Fiscally Accountability Rebalancing" scribbled above, in hopes that someone will listen and take up the challenge before it's too late. "The sooner we start fixing this, the better," he says, "because right now the miracle of compounding is working against

The key political issue of the day was how to spend the windfall. Bush's team was determined to return the money to the voters in the form of massive and widespread tax relief. What the world didn't know was that this surplus cash was largely illusory, the result of faulty bookkeeping.

The CBO's rosy outlook was based on a few deeply flawed assumptions, in particular that most government spending would not exceed the pace of inflation over the following decade, even though the rest of the economy and tax revenues were projected

to grow much faster. Laurence Kotlikoff, a professor of economics at Boston University and a prominent critic of U.S. budgetary planning, released a paper that year drawing attention to what he called the CBO's "fiscal fantasy." But he was a single, lonely voice, and few on Capitol Hill were listening. The tax-cut agenda had taken hold, and there would be no stopping it.

In the midst of this tax-relief bonanza,



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How Canada stopped the bleeding

DEBT
BILLION
USD

COURTESY OF THE BANK OF CANADA; LEFT: GUY WATSON; PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; RIGHT: JEFFREY M. HARRIS

and nine months into the new President's first mandate, came Sept. 11. The horror of the terrorist attacks profoundly changed the American public's attitude toward security and defense almost overnight. Within months, the U.S. military was on the ground in Afghanistan, tracking terrorist camps and overthrowing the Taliban regime. From there, the troops moved over Iraq. Between 2001 and 2004, the annual budget for the Pentagon and domestic security rose by US\$87.1 billion, an increase of 27.5 percent in four years. In the process, a budget that had a surplus of US\$128 billion in 2001 crumbled into a deficit of US\$432 billion last year—the biggest annual shortfall in United States history.

But that's just one symptom of a much deeper fiscal problem. The U.S. is heading for a massive demographic shift as baby boomers start retiring in droves. As they die, the costs of providing social programs and health care are going to soar. "It's not the deficits of today that are the big problem," says John Smith, an economist with the non-partisan Congressional Budget Institute in D.C. "It's that, if you make the health care program, you're going to have deficits as far as the eye can see."

HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?

A trillion is a hard number to wrap your head around. Most people know it's a thousand billion—12 zeros—but even that is difficult to fathom in terms of value. So think of it like this: a trillion U.S. dollars is roughly the size of the entire Canadian economy. The world's top biggest oil companies had combined 2004 revenues just shy of US\$1 trillion. And if you piled a trillion dollars in \$1,000 bills, the stack would be more than 109 km high.

As of February, the U.S. national debt stood at US\$777 billion. And this year, the country is projecting another record deficit of US\$427 billion, increasing its debt by about US\$1.2 billion a day. Thanks to low interest rates, the cost of borrowing all that money remains relatively low, amounting to about 8.6 percent of the federal budget for 2005. But when rates rise, so will the cost of servicing that debt, and current White House forecasts suggest that by 2010, those yearly costs will hit US\$214 billion.

But even those projections don't adequately capture the depth of America's fiscal predicament. For one thing, current budget estimates do not include the costs of the

ongoing military campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan, which are expected to require an additional US\$80 billion in funding over the next year or so. The budget also does not factor in any cost associated with the President's plan to reform Social Security, which would give people the option of diverting some of their contributions into private retirement accounts they manage themselves. That plan will call for between US\$1 trillion and US\$2 trillion in additional government borrowing over the next decade. Bush has proposed cutting the budget deficit in half by 2010, but that strategy doesn't take into account his pledges to make permanent many of those temporary tax reductions introduced in 2001 and 2002, nor to mention other tax cuts promised but not yet implemented.

What's more, none of this even begins to deal with the most pressing challenge of all: how to pay for the sunset years and medical costs of about 77 million baby boomers getting set to retire. Walker refers to this as a "demographic tidal wave" coming to sweep the country's finances. He estimates that when you take into account the unfunded liabilities of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid—programs that together comprise

the heart of the U.S. social safety net, paying persons and health-care costs for the elderly, as well as providing medical coverage for the poor—America's long-term fiscal problem is approximately US\$43 trillion, about four times the size of the nation's economy, and more than 20 times the federal government's annual revenues. And some astute critics think even that number underestimates the true cost of the problem.



If America can't find a way to pay up, there won't be a single region or industry in Canada left untouched by the fiscal shock

To most observers, it's becoming increasingly obvious that, within the next 10 years, the U.S. government will simply not be able to borrow money fast enough to keep up with its exploding expenses. That has huge implications for everything Americans do, from funding the military to protecting the environment. The Economic Policy Institute recently projected that under the current

plan, by 2044 all government revenue would be consumed by just one of spending: health care for the elderly and the poor. Social Security for retirement, national defense and interest on the debt. There will be no money left for such fundamental services as education, transportation or justice, which means the government would be forced into ever escalating borrowing to pay for basic programs. Walker's depen-

dent report, by 2044 all government revenue would be consumed by just one of spending: health care for the elderly and the poor. Social Security for retirement, national defense and interest on the debt. There will be no money left for such fundamental services as education, transportation or justice, which means the government would be forced into ever escalating borrowing to pay for basic programs. Walker's depen-

dent report that, under the current tax rates, interest costs on the skyrocketing national debt would be about half of all government tax revenues by 2031. Two years later, the cost of servicing the debt would exceed all government revenues.

Lawrence Lindsey described this bar graphing crisis four years ago in a paper entitled "The Coming Generational Storm."

Last year, he provided a dark summary of the situation in a *Forbes* magazine article. "The U.S. government is effectively bankrupt," he wrote. The available options to close the fiscal gap? "We can increase taxes by 78 percent, slash Social Security and Medicare benefits by more than half, or eliminate all discretionary spending." "That," he concludes, "is America's moment of pain."

HOW MUCH LONGER CAN THIS SITUATION GO ON?

The United States is the world's best customer. It buys far more from foreign countries than it sells to them, resulting in a sizeable trade deficit. It also spends more on public programs than it collects in tax revenues. And to pay for all these outlays, the U.S. runs strict accounts of foreign capital each year, which—essentially amounts to borrowing from foreign governments and investors. This is commonly referred to as the current account deficit—which amounted at US\$665 billion last year.

Those foreign countries don't lend out of the goodness of their hearts, for the most part they lend because the U.S. uses that money to buy goods from them and other nations. In many ways, the prosperity of

debt. One of the most drilling is Argentina in 2001. When the International Monetary Fund cut off its support for the country's escalating debt, the effect was catastrophic: the value of the national currency plunged, decimating the savings of millions. The resulting surge in inflation and sudden slowdown in consumer spending put thousands of businesses on bankruptcy within weeks. That, in turn, put further millions out of work and pushed one of South America's biggest economies into a punishing recession.

As unthinkable as it may seem, most economists think something like that could happen in the United States. "If foreign investors look at the long-run outlook for the federal budget and decide there is going to be a crash, you get a financial panic," Bowers explains. "Interest rates spike. That causes a huge recession. You'll have the dollar falling fast, so maybe inflation is spiked at the same time." And if interest rates spike, that would squeeze millions of U.S. consumers who have taken out loans against the rising value of their homes in recent years. A sudden hit to the real estate market would further constrain consumers' wallets, leading to a cycle of lower spending, and deeper recession, Bowers says.

Rothschild gives a frighteningly similar scenario in his book *The Coming Generational Storm*. In it, he describes America in 2030 burning from "surprise deficit" not levels, drastic reductions to social programs,

Portion of Canada's exports bought by Americans

80%

= more than one-quarter of our economic output

And that intense behaviour is a huge problem for everyone else because of America's importance to the world economy. Especially millions of workers in Canada, the U.K., Germany, Japan and elsewhere are directly or indirectly reliant on a healthy U.S.

domestic economy is closely tied to that of the U.S., 11 per cent choose to believe the two economies are not at all interrelated. In reality, virtually every region of the country and every major industry—forestry, energy, mining, auto manufacturing, agriculture, technology—depends on U.S. demand for its prosperity. If American consumers are suffering under surging unemployment, spiking interest rates, collapsing housing prices and rising inflation, those same forces will inevitably spill over into Canada.

Rosenberg, for one, believes the U.S. will restructure its fiscal policy to avoid a major crash—but even such a gesture of reform is sure to have negative effects on trading partners like Canada. To close its fiscal gap and reduce its need to borrow abroad, the U.S. must find ways to boost its exports while slowing imports. In other words, it must make it more difficult for other countries to sell in its market. That's what economists refer to as a "beggar thy neighbour" policy. "For the world economy, this means the free ride is over," Rosenberg says. "The days of gorging on the U.S.'s fiscal term what are over. It's done."

HOW CAN AMERICA FIX THE PROBLEM?

On Nov. 3, 2000, as George W. Bush was campaigning for the White House, he received an audience in Maine spoke that the Democrats would lead the nation back from a higher

'The Bush administration is not being serious about austerity at all. They're talking about very big cuts to very small programs, but it's pennies in the overall fiscal problem.'

unsustainable borrowing, spiralling inflation and an explosion in tax evasion. He compares the United States in 25 years to what Russia's economy looked like at the time of the revolution.

When he considers the numbers, Bowers can't disagree with Rothschild's forecast: "You've got all the ingredients for a pretty spectacular crash that a country as rich as the U.S. should just never be even close to flinching with," he says. "Another six or seven years along this path and I think we'll really be flinching with it. It's rather insane."

market for their jobs. "If suddenly Americans were unable to buy those goods from those countries, the economies would have to very quickly figure out how to keep their people employed," Bowers explains. Accordingly, most economists agree that a severe downturn in the United States would drag the rest of the world down with it. "If a country is big as the U.S. gets sick, everybody's gonna get sick," says Bowers.

That is a reality Canadian don't seem to fully grasp. A recent Macdonald-Rogers Media poll found only 45 per cent agree that the

taxes and slower economic growth that "could mean an end to the nation's prosperity." Bush won the election in part by portraying himself as an antidote to tax-and-spend liberals. Yet despite this bold, nativist rhetoric, discretionary spending rose 23 per cent in Bush's first term. Just over four years after harping on the dangers of fiscal irresponsibility, the President is on his way to making his own warnings a reality.

Virtually every reputable independent observer who has looked at the United States budget shortfall concludes that some

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combination of significant tax increases and massive spending cuts is unavoidable. But making those reforms happen, and closing that budget gap, will require the kind of debt reach used to dismantle a bearish American currency must be slowly, carefully managed lower to boost U.S. exports, but without triggering a sudden plunge in the greenback that could spark a devastating jump in inflation. Interest rates must gradually rise to ward off inflation and encourage consumers to save more of their earnings. Spending must be scaled in, but not so severely that it compromises U.S. security and other public priorities. And taxes must be raised, but not so drastically that they stunt economic growth.

In any case, the U.S. must now realize the program that Canada instituted in the 1990s to bring deficit spending and surging national debt under control. That was

disasters. Many insist there must be increases to Medicare premiums, as well as massive cuts to a wide range of social programs that sapping voters will have to pay more to taxes for fewer services is just as easy sell, and so far no politician has been willing to try it. In February, Bush tabled a proposed budget that would eliminate or trim back 150 government programs, but even with that, the U.S. would be making up deficits well in excess of US\$160 billion for years to come. "They're not being serious about austerity at all," Bivens says. "They're talking about very big cuts to very small programs. They mean a lot to the people getting them, but it's pennies in the overall fiscal picture."

James Manney agrees more than seven years as a staffer at the Congressional Budget Office and now does analysis for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a



One prominent economist compares America in 25 years to what Russia's economy looked like at the turn of the millennium

done with higher rates, billions in spending cuts and a sharp drop in the dollar's value, combined with healthy economic growth. But south of the border the size of the challenge is much larger, the stakes are higher, and it seems clear the standard of living that millions of Americans have come to take for granted will have to change.

Whether across the need to make "tough decisions" and none will be tougher than tackling the runaway costs of providing health care coverage for the elderly and the poor. Health spending in the U.S. is projected to jump 63 per cent by 2016, and to continue rising even faster after that. Most analysts agree that, at some point, the government must find a way to clamp down on those costs, yet any cuts in coverage are sure to raise an outcry from the swelling ranks of senior citizens—a highly influential voting bloc.

Academics have proposed such reforms as a national retail sales tax, a luxury tax and a redbook of all tax cuts enacted since 2001. Others are calling for increased funding for the Internal Revenue Service to crimp tax

non-partisan think tank in Washington. He says the solution to the debt problem can only emerge when both parties in Congress and the President sit down to work out a "grand bargain" that includes concessions on both taxes and program spending, and a strategy for restoring international lending. "It requires a deal in which everything is on the table and everyone is at the table," Manney says. "One guy hopes it will happen before some major catastrophe."

Wolpin shares that hope, and clings to his own sense of optimism. He says he has detected a possible shift in attitude past in the past few months, as legislators slow to come to grips with the inevitable financial reckoning. But he acknowledges that, so far, there is little concrete progress to show for his efforts. "The thing that is frustrating is that you can talk to people and point to things, but that's all you can do," he says. "You can lead them to water, but they have to drink. And they better start drinking fast—and soon."

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DANGER SIGNALS

Hidden in Ralph Goodale's something-for-everyone budget was a warning about the effects of America's economic woes. But there are steps Canada can take, as JOHN GEDDES reports from Ottawa.

THE GOVERNMENT gives them space inside the Parliament Buildings every budget day—the our-our tog grips, the spend-our way plaudits, the doors and glass second-guessers. But last week, after Finance Minister Ralph Goodale tabled this year's fiscal blueprint, it was tough to find anyone peddling a convincing rant naming the lobbyists and special interest groups cramped out in the annual budget revision bazaar. Business hadn't barked on corporate taxes and got them anyway. Municipalities had asked for a lot and received even more. Efforts for defence (partly pleasing the right), and for justice and the environment (winning criticism from the left) flowed as expected. The worst worry critics could find to my was that the Liberals, in striving to please so many and preserve their minority, failed to offer a clear strategic focus.

With everybody busy pointing up the crab, though, a single criticism rose in this most upbeat of budgets largely escaped notice. Amid the sunny spending promises and surplus projections, Goodale slipped words of anxiety. America is not what it once was. Washington is mulling up huge deficits, in sharp contrast to Ottawa's better-than-balanced books, and there's an equally troubling record U.S. current account deficit, a measure that underlies both trade and investment. How much do the American elephant's ailing economic fundamentals threaten the freshly healthy Canadian

mouse? "The American situation," Goodale warned in his otherwise celebratory speech, "could lead to higher interest rates, slower U.S. growth and a further depreciation in the American dollar—any of which could negatively affect us here in Canada."

In other words, forget the days when Canadians might count on being pulled along by a turbocharged U.S. economy. Instead, the worry is of being dragged down when a spot

FORGET the days when we could count on reaping the benefits of the turbocharged American economy

ters. After all, America buys 80 per cent of Canada's exports. Goodale said the government must afford to be "pragmatic" by fear of what might happen if the American engine stalls, but must "plan accordingly and continue to keep ourselves in a position of fiscal strength, the better to handle the risks, should they arise." That the issue is clearly U.S. weakness, not Canadian shortcomings, is worth reflecting on. What a change from the 1980s and early '90s, when every new federal budget tabled in Ottawa precented a

Goodale said Canada needs to plan in order to better handle the risks should they arise





spite of commentators about how much smarter Washington's economic strategists looked than Ottawa's hunching.

Too bad Google couldn't just note the contrast and invite Canadians to feel good about it. The situation is far too precarious to indulge in that sort of schadenfreude. As Jack Matcz, president of the C.D. Howe Institute, sees it, two very different economic scenarios for 2005 form the real backdrop for the federal budget. The rosy outlook holds that the U.S. dollar has already bottomed out, and a robust American economy will, along with strong Asian growth, power the world economy—and Canadian exports—as a good year. The bleaker prospect is that foreign investors will be frightened off by those twin American deficits, causing the U.S. dollar to plunge further, severely curbing any America's ability to keep buying products from countries, like Canada, whose exports would suddenly be priced in more costly currencies. "Economists," Matcz adds

WAITING FOR REGULATIONS

There was money for Kyoto, but where are the rules?

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER Stéphane Dion has promised to deliver a full plan sometime in the next few weeks on how Canada will achieve its tough Kyoto treaty reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions. The budget announced more than \$3 billion in new green funding over five years, including a \$225-million expansion of incentives for making homes more energy efficient and a \$1-billion fund for environmental projects. But will there be rules and regulations to go with these incentives? The budget alludes to ongoing negotiations with auto manufacturers aimed at cutting greenhouse-gas emissions from vehicles sold in Canada by 25 per cent by 2009. On auto and other industries, will Dion deliver?

glumly, "hard to put a lot of weight on the second scenario."

While Goodale acknowledged the dangers posed by the precarious U.S. situation, his working assumption is that this year and next will be good years. He cited the average private sector forecasts of 2.9 per cent gross-domestic-product growth in 2005 and 3.3 per cent in 2006—not bad at all. But Matcz notes that Goodale's budget also assumes that federal revenues will rise by only around two per cent in 2005-06. And that projection is far too low, he says—unless what lurks behind is the worry that the U.S. market for Canadian goods and services might sour, hitting our economy and, in turn, shrinking Ottawa's tax haul.

Exporting companies have already weathered a 25 per cent appreciation of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar since the end of 2002. They are apprehensive about the prospect of more of the same.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

ROGERS sportsnet Magazine

MARCH 7, 2005

No Plan B

David Hearn won't be surprised when he wins his first PGA Tour title.



➔ **Welcome back, Koskie**
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**TORONTO'S DANIEL
NEGREANU JUST
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by Russell Foltz

SHARP CARD

DANIEL NEGREANU HATH THAT, IF WE SAT DOWN TO PLAY POKER, I'D PROBABLY WIN A HAND OR TWO ON EVEN MORE. POKER'S PARTLY A GAME OF CHANCE, AFTER ALL, AND THE CARD COULD FALL MY WAY FOR A WHILE.

OVER TIME, TROUGH, WITH LUCK LESS OF A FACTOR, NEGREANU WOULD CLEAN ME OUT OF EVERY CHIP, PENNY ON MATCH-HICK WE'D BE PLAYING FOR. AND THERE'D BE TWO ODDO REASONN FOR THAT.



One is that my poker skills don't include being able to remember, from one day to the next, whether a full house beats a flush (it does). The other is that the Toronto-born Negreanu is arguably—in fact, probably—the best poker player in the world.

Last year, Negreanu, 26, was both *Cardplayer* Magazine's Tournament Player of the Year award and the World Series of Poker's (WSOP) Player of the Year award, both highly prestigious and hotly contested titles. In a year-long series of tournaments that has started to resemble golf's new Tour far in its burgeoning schedule of high-stakes events, he won the Borgata Poker Open in Atlantic City,



Bright lights, big city: Negreanu first headed for Las Vegas in 1996, at the age of 21.

placemats. For one thing, poker tournaments are truly open. Anyone can get a seat at a table, provided you can meet up a registration fee that ranges from US\$2,000 to US\$10,000 or more. Last year's World Series of Poker fest, held at Harrah's like-Sunco in Las Vegas, attracted more than 2,500 hopefuls.

What this entry fee buys, for the most part, is the chance to get seat pecking in a hurry by one or another of the game's big guns: Negreanu or living legend Doyle "Texas Dolly" Brunson, an age-old assassin like Howard Lederer or Phil Hellmuth, or maybe one of the great women players, Jennifer Harman or Annie Duke. The winner also has several hundred top players, and they're all fairly a hell of a lot better than you or me.

For another thing—in case you've been sealed in a cave for the last few years and don't already know—poker is hot. Fueled by the proliferation of high-stakes tournaments and the availability of online play, and spurred by innovative television coverage that lets audience members see the players' hole cards and cut out their hands, poker has taken off like the get-rich-quick on the Internet.

One result has been that the top poker players now are genuine celebrities, and some more so than Negreanu. Usually it's his trademark suit, sweater—he

dresses the Toronto Maple Leafs but has a collection that covers almost all the teams, including Team Canada—he's a fixture at celebrity poker events, where the likes of actors Tobey Maguire, Ben Affleck, Leonardo DiCaprio and Canadian-born comedians Norm Macdonald face off with one another over a basic table. "They're serious players in their own right," Negreanu says. But he admits that being regarded by them as a celebrity himself is "pretty damn cool."

The sunny laughs of the Vegas Hollywood interface must have seemed more than remote to the younger Negreanu. Born of Romanian immigrant parents in the Bloor-Spadina area of Toronto, he grew up around Led Zeppelin and Rush Avenue in the city's suburban north end. He attended A.Y. Jackson Secondary School for a while, but poker was always his passion. When charity casinos were legalized in Ontario in the 1990s, he turned pro, playing almost every day for a full eight hours, leaving his son and cat.

In 1996, at 21, he took the Las Vegas plunge. For almost two years, he bled his time, "coming back to Toronto and training, then going back to Vegas and losing it all," he recalls, laughing. Then in 1997 he became the youngest player ever to win a World Series of Poker event and was

named Best All-Round Player at the World Poker Finals.

Today, the dark-faced, bleached-blond, smiling-straddled Negreanu is not only at the top of his profession as a competitor and winner, but also a thoughtful student of his chosen game, with more than 50 magazine articles to his credit.

He's also a tireless promoter and champion of poker. "This is a poker fan fest and a player second," he says. "I'd like to see poker's popularity continue to grow."

More than that, in a world of glint-eyed, hard-case gamblers, Negreanu comes across as a genuinely nice guy. He drinks sparingly—beer only, and never before or during a game—doesn't smoke, is deeply religious, and is engaged to be married.

Does the pressure of countless high-stakes games ever get to him? Well, yes, he says.

"I'd probably play 40 tournaments this year, and the schedule is quite hectic," he says. "Poker tournaments tend to be all over the place. I also do as many charity exhibitions and promotional events as I can, and then there's all the media and public attention. Fatally, it's pretty exhausting."

To help him manage his hectic schedule and affairs, Negreanu recently advertised for a personal assistant. On the day we spoke, he'd already received almost a hundred applications.

"In some ways," he sighs, "it was easier when it was just about the poker."

Russell Felton is a writer on Toronto.

BY MIKE RUTSEY

Welcome back, Koskie

AS A TEENAGER, COREY KOSKIE COULD

JUMP HIGHER THAN ALL BUT THREE

VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS IN

CANADA. THEN HE TURNED

HIS ATTENTION TO

BASEBALL.

It says something about Corey Koskie that you can call him a "long shot" to his face, and he'll consider it a compliment.



Negreanu was the youngest player ever to win a World Series of Poker event, and he was named WSOP All-Round Player of the Year World Series of Poker.

with US\$1.1 million, and the Fifth Diamond World Poker Classic at the Bellagio casino in Las Vegas—has adopted homeowners—walking away with a record-high cash US\$1.1 million.

In 2001, Negreanu took home an estimated US\$6.5 million from tournament play in 2004, and so far in 2005 he already leads all rankings. He is also the reigning poker player in history with 12 major tournament wins. The World Series of Poker Web site (www.wsop.com) calls him "arguably the hottest player in the world right now."

There are no more accom-

Now the pride and joy of the Toronto Blue Jays after the last Canadian team standing signed the 32-year-old free agent to a three-year, \$16.5-million contract in mid-December, Koskie has never forgotten his humble prairie roots or the role that fate and chance played in his development.

"I wasn't a long shot," Koskie says with a laugh of his remarkable voyage that brought him from the small town of Anola, Minn., 28 minutes east of Winnipeg, to the major leagues. "I view it as being a no shot."

To say that Koskie was a diamond in the rough early on his career is grossly incorrect. He was more like a lump of coal.

"That's why I think it was a God-sentred plan," says the deeply religious Koskie. "If you try and break it down logically, you can't. If you look at it, I shouldn't be playing baseball right now."

Every player has a starting point and with Koskie it was Anola, a dot of perhaps 70 people, only a few in the middle of nowhere in both the geographical and the baseball senses.

"I grew up in a small town in Minnesota and I didn't play any baseball," Koskie says of his



COREY KOSKIE STATISTICS	
AGE	32
HEIGHT	5'7"
WEIGHT	220 LB
POS	LF
TEAMS	8
POSITIVE	1999 BAA
ALL-STAR	3/1/00

youth. "I played down ball, maybe five, six games a year and there were no practices. At that time my main goals were volleyball and hockey. I never thought about playing baseball."

But then things started breaking his way.

A stand-out player in Canadian intercollegiate volleyball, "I was going on a full ride [scholarship] to the University of Minnesota to play volleyball when one of the blue came [baseball] coach [John Smith] in Boone, Iowa, started to call me every day. I mean every

day, and sometimes twice a day," Koskie recalls. Smith had spotted Koskie in 1992 at a scouting camp run once a year in Canada by the Canadian Reds. "For some reason I decided to go there and play baseball," Koskie says.

"I had a surgery after that season and it was supposed to be a 12-week rehab thing. Instead I came back in eight weeks and that enabled me to go to the Canada Games. It was a question mark as to whether I'd be ready for the Games."

"In the end I was put on the roster, and that's when the [National Baseball League] saw me there. It was at the [New Brunswick] where I met coach John Blue, and he really helped me out. Even really tough before



COREY KOSKIE CHRONOLOGY	
1992	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
1993	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
1994	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
1995	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
1996	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
1997	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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2016	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
2017	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
2018	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
2019	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
2020	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
2021	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
2022	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
2023	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
2024	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
2025	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
2026	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
2027	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
2028	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
2029	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
2030	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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that. It was at the [New Brunswick] where I met coach John Blue, and he really helped me out. Even really tough before



KOSKIE DIES IN

"He wanted to play in the Blue Jays," says Koskie, pictured here sliding to second after home run by Roberto Alomar.

when I woke in the morning; it was there before [Fisher's]."

In coming to Toronto, Koskie has fulfilled a dream. He was shipped the Blue Jays once baseball took prominence in his life. But the decision to leave the Minnesota Twins, his only pro organization, was a tough

one, for reasons beyond sentiment and loyalty.

"I'm supposed to have excused I am in agreeing with the [Jays]," Koskie says. "It was a person who doesn't like change. I don't like rocking the boat. I don't like things being different.

But, saying all that, [what] why I'm surprised that I'm so excited about playing for the Blue Jays."

Blurred with two sons, Koskie is in a stage of personal development where he can

feel secure and drink it all in. "You have to have open eyes," he says. "A lot of people go through life with their eyes closed."

Not this time. **W**

Mike Piazza is a senior baseball writer with the Toronto Sun.

NO PLAN B



A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL BE SURPRISED WHEN

DAVID HEARN WINS HIS FIRST PGA TOUR

TITLE. BUT DAVID HEARN WON'T BE AMONG

THEM. NEITHER WILL HIS FAMILY, HIS FRIENDS,

HIS INSTRUCTOR, OR A CERTAIN PRESCIENT

GOLF WRITER.

BY JOHN BORDON



Same Olur
BRUCE McDOUGALL

Tainted love: Everyone seems to agree that drugs and sport don't mix, but no one can explain why.

With baseball just beginning, the Tour de France still months away, Olympic sprinters doing whatever they do when no one's watching, and no hockey season at all, the world's drug police are keeping busy pursuing female tennis players and national dart champions to the ends of the earth, forcing competitors to pee in a cup before they corrupt the dope peddlers of Medellin and the white-slave traders of Beluchistan who can afford tickets to their unsanctioned exhibition matches.

We wonder the World Anti-Doping Agency wants to increase its budget. These plane tickets cost money.

Yet I still haven't heard a single convincing reason why athletes shouldn't tangle with their chemical attributes. We just take WADA's word that it's wrong, why?

Some say the rules protect the athletes. If that's the case, why don't more athletes speak out against drugs? Could it be that many athletes don't care? In a survey of 106 athletes in 1995, more than half indicated they would take a drug that would help them win every competition for a five-year period. They said they'd take the drug even if they knew that, at the end of the five-year period, its side effects would kill them.

"The truth is," admits former Olympic cyclist Leonien Zijlstra



van Mooswijk, "top sport is not really that good for your health." Some say the rules protect the fans. They say drugs taint the purity of an athletic achievement. But when did fans become such moral arbiters? Few of them would forsake their Volvo because it tainted the purity of sex. Or stop taking Prozac because it sullied their sexy scent of sweat. On the contrary: Most people are glad to take one of these drugs, because it improves their performance. Why should athletes feel any differently?

In fact, drugs, doping and chemical tampering in sport ultimately benefit the fans themselves. People watch elite athletes to see the most talented competitors win. For my dollar, there's nothing more exciting than watching a cyclist in the Tour de France scream down the side

of a mountain at 90 kilometers an hour then stand on his pedals to push himself up the other side while his competitors drop off in exhaustion. I've watched Lance Armstrong compete in the Tour de France for the last six years, because I wanted to see him win (and catch glimpses of his wife), not because he sets an example for humanity.

In fact, we should dread the day that human beings start behaving like elite athletes. To put it mildly, they already are in a world of their own. That's why we pay so much money for the privilege of entering their arena to watch them perform. They spend their entire day doing what the rest of us do for an hour a week: lifting weights, running, sprinting, riding a stationary bike, throwing a baseball, leaping a hockey stick. They run faster, jump higher, inflict and endure more pain

than almost anyone else on the planet. They wear two 10 shoes, have 26-inch necks and lungs with the capacity of an industrial vacuum cleaner (that you should see the man!) If they want to take drugs and turn themselves into beasts, who'll notice?

For all their hard work and dedication, elite athletes know that only winners get the gold. And if they can take a drug to help them get it, a lot of them will. As former U.S. cycling champion Timmy Thomas recently told the *New York Times*, "Who's going to cheer for someone who finishes last?"

Despite the self-serving hypocritical headline at the world's self-appointed morality police, athletes will take any opportunity to gain an edge over their opponents, whether it means taking their gonads, growing hair on their feet or pushing themselves up the side of a mountain with a broken collarbone and their lungs screaming at them to stop.

So let these bulked-up, single-minded athletes take any thing they want to improve their performance. But as they totter off into primitive old age and senility, impotence and psychosis, let's put their pictures up in school gymnasiums, local tennis courts and golf course pro shops, like the customary reminders of cigarette packages or the rusting hulks of damaged automobiles on freeway median strips. To serve as a warning to others of what might befall them if they put winning ahead of their health. Maybe then all of us will start thinking, not just the athletes who take the drugs, but the spectators who pay good money to watch their performance when they do.

Bruce McDougall is managing editor of *Sports Illustrated*.

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Ken Dryden is still looking for a provincial daycare deal

Social Development Minister Ron Givens was not able to deliver an agreement with the provinces on a national child-care and early learning plan in time for the budget, some provinces, notably Alberta and Quebec, wouldn't agree to Givens's demands on how \$5 billion over five years should be spent. The federal Liberals have promised to pour the money mainly into high-quality daycare. In the absence of an agreement, the budget creates

The Prime Minister may be all smiles, but no one is close to settling on terms.

a \$300 million fund for the provinces to draw on by the end of 2005-06 with no strings attached – "while a framework for quality programs and services across the country is developed" but having started the money flowing without writing an terms, will they ever get that elusive doc?

and technology is designed to reduce the U.S. productivity advantage that troubles many economists.

Of course, this way of looking at it has had got assumptions that the key comparisons—often the only ones that seem so readily made—are with the United States. But that may be changing. Bark of Nova Scotia senior economist Adrienne Warren said in a recent report that internal North American integration is gaining importance. In what she calls a "major shift," experts among Canada, the U.S. and Mexico grow more closely than

their trade with the rest of the world in 2003 and 2004—reversing the powerful trend of the previous 10 years. “For Canada and the United States,” Warren observed, “the

THE challenges of a more globalized future might make today's narrower bilateral wars seem quaint

degree of trade interdependence has been declining since the beginning of the decade, and has now fallen below pre-NAFTA levels." It's no surprise that China and the other Asian economies are growing in importance to Canada and the U.S., particularly as sources of low-cost manufacturing inputs.

Coping with the alert economic risks posed by the U.S. might look tricky now. But the challenges of a more globalized future, with new alliances and uneasy relationships, might soon make today's narrower bilateral horizons appear quaint.

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VANCOUVER

HOST



BRIAN O. JOHNSON
Senior Writer, *Maclean's*
As *Maclean's* film critic, Brian O. Johnson provides readers with insightful reviews and features, bringing an especially fine focus to the landscape of Canadian cinema.

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ATOM EGOYAN
Filmmaker
Atom Egoyan's films, including *Calendar*, *Crédito*, *The Sweet Hereafter* and *Ararat*. He has won numerous prizes at international film festivals, including the Grand Prix and International Critics Awards from the Cannes Film Festival, and has also received two Academy Award® nominations.



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THE PATH AHEAD

The push for religious reform is allowing Sufis to step into the open

God wants to see
How low and playful in your eyes
For that is your greatest witness to them.
—Malik, 14th-century Persian poet
and Sufi saint

THERE'S NOT MUCH love in the eyes of the low-low! Saudi officials clapping me in the arms. And in the dark jail of the police station on the outskirts of Mecca, the mood is anything but playful. My answer stands rigid at the open doorway leading out onto the maddening streets of the city's suburbs. "So you're a Sufi," he'd blurted at me minutes earlier, labeling me a member of the mystical Islamic sect that values a personal relationship with God over blind obedience to the Koran. I'm not, but that didn't seem to matter much to my gaoler. I'd been picked up at the funeral of 60-year-old Sheikh Mohammed Alawi al-Mulla, Saudi Arabia's leading Sufi, whose sudden death from complications arising from diabetes had sent shock waves through his community. A foreigner with a camera, mingling with members of a sect considered heretical by more rigid Islamists, was enough to arouse suspicion.

My four hours in detention was only a small taste of what Saudi Arabia's Sufis have endured over the past two centuries. Brutally persecuted by the pious and the Wahhabis, Sufis were, until recently, barely considered citizens. It's still illegal to possess Sufi literature—a crime punishable by death—or praise the madrasan or mausoleum at the heart of Sufism's spiritual belief system. But as Saudi Arabia faces increasing pressure to reform, things are loosening up. Modernists are now edging forward, and the Sufis, forced underground for so many decades, are rising a bit of a racket.

"A couple of evenings, you couldn't even say the word Sufi in Saudi Arabia," Sheikh Abbas Alawi al-Mulla, Sheikh Mohammed's 56-year-old brother and potential successor, told me. The funeral was a benchmark for the future, he explained, from one of the

Wahabis at his home, adjacent to the family's mausoleum, or assembly hall, in Mecca. Driven by grief, his brother's admirers—Sunnis, Shias and Sufis alike—came together to embrace and weep. Many stood on their heads, Crown Prince Abdullah, the de facto ruler of the kingdom, paid his respects, and even referred to Sheikh Mohammed as the scholar of Mecca.

Sheikh Mohammed, a professor of sharia law and hadith (a collection of the sayings of the prophet) at Mecca's Shura College, was, of course, well-respected in some circles. But what made the crown prince's presence striking to the Sufis, as he noted,

IF ANY Muslim sect can help bridge the divides not only within Islam but also with the West, it may be Sufism

Sufi, had been his role as Saudi Arabia's conservative religious establishment's first to touch in the holy sanctuary in Mecca, and his role as an infidel by many of the conservative scholars in the country and abroad. "Prince Abdullah's visit was like a green light for the moderate line of religious practice in Saudi Arabia," Sheikh Abbas proclaimed.

Today, Sufis are meeting and discussing their future in Saudi Arabia in growing numbers. At June 2004 assembly on religious reforms in the kingdom, organized by the monarchy, was attended by Sheikh Mohammed, openly representing the Sufi movement. "It was amazing," his brother remembered. "He sat between the Sunnis and Shi'a representatives, like a mediator."

If any Muslim sect can help bridge the burgeoning divide not only within Islam but also with the West, it may be Sufism. Like other Muslims, Sufis believe prayer and fasting are important practices that bring a person closer to God. But they accept that a long series of prophets and saints,



Sunni and Shi'a of a Sufi shrine, Al-Baqi, reflect changing attitudes

including Jesus and Buddha, also hold keys to divine knowledge. The Sufi world view blurs the distinction between Muslim and Christian, Jew and Hindu. "The majority of people in the world are Sufis, even if they don't call themselves that," Ameen Raza, Sheikh Mohammed's 42-year-old nephew, told me. "The path of peace and moderation, the path of love, that is the Sufi path."

Rejecting the path with a modern faith is the challenge facing Saudi Arabia's Sufi community. "Mecca and Medina represent the heart of Islam," says Sami Angawi, an architect and important Sufi. "Diversity

needs to be brought back to these sites for Islam to begin its process of rehabilitation." He's the founder of the Anwar Center, a Jeddah-based organization dedicated to preserving Saudi Arabia's Islamic heritage.

To Angawi, historical sites are important, although his vision is at odds with that of the dinars. They have no use for anything they believe detracts a Muslim from his duties as God's divine law, especially religious monuments. The dinars established in a pious way money into building religious schools around the world to spread their version of Islam and limiting their restoration efforts

to repairing the physical damage sites at Mecca and Medina. "But as for us?" Ninety per cent of the country's significant religious sites are gone," Angawi laments.

"The list includes some startlingly relevant structures, including the house of the Prophet Mohammed in Medina, which Angawi used unconsciously to lure. "Imagine," he says, "if someone uncovered the house where Jesus held the last supper, only to rip it out. Would the Christians world stand for it?" What has been lost out to the care of the Sufi and Sufis around the world look to self-governance, from the graves of saints replaces

considered sacred for the role they played in the spiritual awakening of nations. While he is a world not to be taken down with sites of worship, to Islam is a statement that worship is reserved for Allah alone. Angawi insists they are important monuments of spiritual strength and renewal. But Muslims in Saudi Arabia first brought the polytheists, another were punishable by death, if they appear to have preservation.

In fact, Saudi Arabia's handling of its culture adopted a familiar task: appropriate all knowledge by emphasizing any vestiges of past perspectives. The same has been used before. As renowned Muslim philosopher Ziauddin Saadati elegantly argues in his 1992 essay, "The Making and Unmaking of Islamic Culture," "It was the message to know that transformed Islam from its desert origins into a world civilization." At its heart, Islamic culture is the world in the present of knowledge. The decline, argues Saadati, began when the concept of knowledge was hijacked by a select few religious scholars eager to assert their authority, and narrowly redefined to be religious knowledge.

But now, Sufi reformers such as Angawi and Sheikh Abbas are trying to broaden the concept once again. "Knowledge comes from knowledge," and it's all knowledge, including modern science and technology, which many consider has been hijacked by a Western secular capitalism that has been commercializing human achievement.

But can the reform break the stronghold Saudi Arabia's clerics have had on those whose thinking may differ from theirs? There are promising signs. In Mecca, shielded and divided from popular access to police stations, finally armed at the city's department headquarters. To my surprise, a high-level cleric recommended the guard assigned to me and ordered him to remove the chains. "I apologize for this treatment," he says in perfect English. "We still briefly about Sheikh Mohammed's death, a 'bad loss,' according to the official, before I'm told I'm free to leave. It's quite a change in attitude, and emblematic of the shifts in Saudi society. "Changing course is an integral part of the Sufi way," Angawi had told me earlier. "One path is the path of water." A good thing, now that the oppressive dams of the clerics are starting to leak.

I WANT MY HDTV

You've bought the high-priced set—now where are those high-definition shows?

KIRK LESLIE LIANS TO FINISH HIS BASEMENT. (I said this, his broad-speaking, now, \$2,000, 43-inch, rear projection, high-definition ready beauty of a television just sat on a makeshift stand in his living room, looking completely out of place. A tall, confused TV junkie, the Toronto management consultant is eager to make the most of the emergence of his home theater. But like a guy who's bought a sauged up hot rod only to discover he's restricted to revving it in the driveway, Leslie quickly realized his image of HDTV heaven had been a little fuzzy. "If someone wants to see my TV, I turn to the preview channel because it's the only station with high-definition content 24 hours a day," he says. "I thought I was getting

six or seven channels that had HD programming around the clock, not just a few shows. The hype kind of sucked me."

Leslie's not the only one. Thanks to steadily dropping prices on high-end sets and state-of-the-art promises of "life-altering viewing experiences," Canadians have been snapping up HD-ready TVs like promiscuous shoppers, more vinyl guitars, plus high-quality digital sound. There are already more than a million such units in households across the country, and that number is expected to double this year. The problem there's not much to watch. High-definition shows, movies and sports events are coming to air

much more slowly than the technology is selling. "When people see an HD broadcast on my TV, they say, 'I have to have one of those,'" says Elena Ecker, owner of a 60-inch rear projection set and moderator of several Web forums dedicated to everything high-definition. "But I always tell them, 'Listen, right now you'll only get so much.'" These days, what you get depends largely on where you live. In Toronto, digital cable and satellite subscribers, or those signing for a special tuner that picks up over-the-air HD signals, can watch around two dozen high-definition stations, including Canadian and U.S. networks and specialty

channels like TSN. Elsewhere, it's a different story. In Calgary, for example, Shaw Cable offers only five HD stations, while EastLink subscribers in Halifax get six.

Even those with access to many HD stations find much of what's on them to be the same standard-definition fare (which looks dreadful on a widescreen display because the image doesn't cover the whole screen, leaving black bars on the sides). That's because to give viewers a true high-def experience, a TV program must be both produced and aired in high-definition—and TV producers are only slowly making the shift. What's more, most HD channels run high-definition programming only at prime time, and sports—a major draw for HDTV fare—is usually restricted to the evening.

Canada's limited sports/HDTV offerings—especially horse-race coverage—often in sharp contrast to the U.S. Most often across the south of the border have access to about 30 HD stations. Specialty channels such as ESPN and HBO together add more than

100 daily hours of available HD fare. Seventy per cent of network prime-time shows and many local newscasts also air in HD.

The difference lies partly in regulatory approaches. The U.S. government has mandated that all the networks and their affiliates must be broadcasting digital signals by 2006. (Most observers agree that deadline now looks unrealistic, and 2010 is a more likely target for a full switch to digital.) Canada, however, has held off on legislation. Instead, the CRTC has left the pace of transition to market forces: as consumers buy HD-ready TVs, networks will add HD content, which drives more consumers to buy TVs. But this strategy has slowed delays on both sides: no consumer wants to wait till those screens HD programming before upgrading to expensive sets, while broadcasters hold off on investing in costly digital transmitters until more viewers are equipped to watch digital shows.

This chicken-or-egg game has put the pace of HDTV adoption in Canada more than two years behind its southern neighbor. The odd thing is, the delay is by design—at least on the part of the broadcast industry. "Our strategy has always been to lag behind the American market," says Michael McIwica of Canadian Digital Television, an industry-sponsored group that promotes HD adoption, "and then work out the kinks in HD standards, the high cost of broadcast transmissions and consumer electronics."

But Canadian consumers and regulators

are getting impatient. Three months ago, CRTC chairman Charles Dufresne urged a networks and producers to reduce the gray-egg gap between Canada and the U.S., pointing out that four of the 13 digital stations licensed more than a year ago were operational. "At the end of the day, it's about content," Dufresne told Maclean's. "We began to see that we were falling behind."

Some critics now go so far as to wonder whether Canadians will ever see enough HD programming to justify their outlay on high-end gear. CTV Inc. president Rick

"I THOUGHT I was getting several channels with HD around the clock, not a few shows. The hype kind of sucked me."

Brace responds, absolutely. "There is a real perception gap," he says. "Canadians have as much or more HD content than what they have in the U.S." He promises that viewers here can see digital broadcasts not only of American prime-time shows but a growing number of original Canadian productions.

And things are progressing fast, says Bruce. CTV, which a year ago was the only conventional national broadcaster airing in high definition, now has two HD feeds—one each in the East and West—plus plans

to set up over-the-air transmitters in Vancouver and Toronto for viewers who don't subscribe to digital cable or satellite. CTV, which delayed its rollout of HD service because of the NHL lockout, is launching HD channels this week on cable and satellite, plus over-the-air options in Toronto and Montreal. The broadcaster hopes to set up over-the-air HD transmitters in Vancouver, Ottawa and Quebec City as well. Both networks are also producing HD programming, such as CTV's *Coverage* and CRTC's *The Nature of Things*, as well as movies of the week, miniseries and special events like *Juno* broadcasts. "The sports and specialty channels are ramping up well. TSN will launch 20 CFL games to the 25 NFL games it broadcasts in high definition, as well as coverage of the Masters, NASCAR and a handful of NBA games. Rogers SportsNet, meanwhile, will bring home Toronto Blue Jays games in HD this year."

That said, Canadians are still years away from the virtual 24-hour cycle of crystal-clear television. Reaching that goal will require other players—mainly, advertisers—to supply pressure. "How you know that HD has topped the scales is when more ads are in widescreen," says EMMO Nabors. Burns tech analyst Brian Peacock. "That will be the signal from God that the majority of the viewing community is watching HD."

michael.smider@mcgraw-hill.com

LOWDOWN ON HOMEGROWN HIGH-DEF

Most HD programming currently available on Canadian TV are shows imported from the U.S. networks. But home-made high-definition content is growing slowly. Here's what national broadcasters are producing or planning to offer soon.



CBC

Series *The News* includes some episodes of *The Nature of Things* shows weekly HD movies nightly on Canada broadcasts



white NFL newscast (Don Cherry's suits in high definition)

CORAL TELEVISION

No original programming—the only HD content are American shows like *Jerry*; plans to air the *Seinfeld* finale in HD



News: left, instant Star, The Newsweek, Jerry, 2004 James, CFL

CTV



Series *Deconstruct the West* Green-screen, broadcast *Shaw Coverage* and *The Sports Hour*; plans HD broadcasts of special events such as the *Juno* Awards in April



SPECIALTY CHANNELS

TSN will air 20 CFL games in HD this year, plus NFL games where available. Rogers SportsNet will offer Toronto Blue Jays home games plus some Raptors basketball games. Discovery has HD series *Sex Files*, *Minute Planet* and *Body Matter* due to appear. OMNI 1 and 2, meanwhile, air live after evening newscasts and series *Meatloaf* and *Dollywood* broadcast in HD.

DIANE'S FEAR FACTOR

A controversial drug's ad campaign fuels anger

JACKIE DAINLEY THOUGHT the medication was safe. In 2000, the Oshville, Ont., resident saw her doctor for what she admits was "pretty mild" acne. The doctor prescribed Diane-35, and Dainley's skin soon cleared. She took the drug for 18 months, in part because it also works as birth control, though Health Canada has not approved it for that. Then Dainley told Stanley, now 31, about the potentially fatal blood clots associated with the medication. "It kind of freaked me out a little bit," recalls Stanley. "I just decided the risk was too great for me to be on it."

Diane-35, manufactured by Wyeth's Canada Inc. and the subject of a controversial advertising campaign, causes two side effects: Cystitis and acne. It also causes blood clots, a potentially fatal condition associated with some, although not all, oral contraceptives. Dainley says she never had any side effects, but only after all else fails, and for women who, because of hormone problems, suffer from excess hair on the face or elsewhere. (While Health Canada opposes drugs for certain conditions, doctors are free to prescribe them as they see fit under a practice known as "off-label" use—hence the prescription for Stanley.) In a written statement, Wyeth says Diane-35 is "a very safe drug that has been used since 1985 by more than 40 million women worldwide."

The Procter-Kline, Inc., company maintains there is "no evidence of danger" to suggest Diane-35 is less effective than conventional birth control pills, which



"It freaked me out—I just decided the risk was too great for me to be on it," Stanley says.

are known to slightly increase women's risk of blood clots.

Nevertheless, Health Canada and Wyeth put out two warnings about Diane-35—one in 2002, another in 2003. The latter noted Diane-35 to be four times more likely to cause blood clots than ordinary birth control pills. The latter said the drug was "not, but still justly caution." Health Canada says this between the drug's introduction in 1998 and last year, 88 reported adverse drug reac-

CRITICS claim that the television commercial inappropriately targeted impressionable teenage girls

tions were reported—including eight deaths. What's caused outrage is the TV ad campaign for Diane-35 that until mid-February ran on MuchMusic, whose audience is primarily young (and at the end of the month is mostly non-Canadian stations). The ad featured fresh-faced girls posing in favor of marriage, and ended with a shot of a package of Diane-35—strikingly similar to the packaging for birth control pills. Barbara Mannix, an epidemiologist at the University of British Columbia, along with other doctors for women's health, has written Health Minister Ugo Desautels to complain. They say

the ad inappropriately targeted impressionable teenage girls, luring them with the promise of better complexion and pregnancy prevention. The commercial, argues Mannix, promotes an "unnecessarily risky product to young girls."

A Health Canada spokeswoman said the department will investigate the claims, and send a review of the legislation concerning direct-to-consumer drug ads is already underway. CHUM Ltd., MuchMusic's owner, declined to be interviewed, but issued a statement: "Advertising running on our station is screened and approved by the appropriate bodies endorsed by Health Canada." Stanley, meanwhile, stood by his call. It noted that the commercial for Diane-35, known as "Never packaging," is, in fact, "a standard form of pharmaceutical packaging for products of all sorts." And it said his campaign was "targeted to young adults who have the highest prevalence of severe acne and are in greatest need of therapy."

Filling sales may have something to do with it as well. IMS Health Canada, a drug market watcher, says Diane-35's popularity peaked in 2002, when 635,000 prescriptions were filled for almost \$36 million. In early 2003, though, the blood clotting story got a lot of play, and by 2004, sales had dipped to 668,000 prescriptions, worth \$29 million. Running ads might attract new customers, but Stanley's had his first experience in all of that. "I'd do more research on the pills that are prescribed to me" ☐

dain.hawal@black-mediawire.com

No question: when it comes to collecting travel miles, this is a rewards-loyalty man.

According to *Aeroplan*, 37 per cent of Canadian households have at least one *Aeroplan* member, and the program starts about 14 million reward miles a year. Meanwhile, the *Loyalty Groups Air Miles* Rewards Program, launched in 1992, has now enrolled about 13.4 million Canadians, which the company says covers about 70 per cent of households.

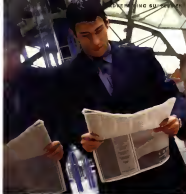
These days, consumers can accumulate loyalty points while buying just about anything, using the affinity cards cards issued by all major banks. That means more points as perks to entice buyers, whether it's *Aeroplan* miles when booking up at *Four or Air Miles* for a new subscription to *Maclean's*. And increasingly you can cash in your

points for just about any kind of merchandise—and even trade points in on miles between programs on the open market (see "Current Offers" story).

With so many goodies to choose from, the dream of a free trip or getaway will surely tempt Canadians' reward ambitions. "Without a doubt, that's what we always hear the most aspirational reward," says Andrew Mitchell, director of RBC Rewards and Partnerships with RBC Royal Bank. But Mitchell says consumers should look carefully at the fine print of the terms and conditions to make sure their reward is truly "free."

"Some rewards programs will only let you use points to cover the base airfare cost," he says. "But when it comes time to book the trip, you find yourself paying for taxes or service charges."

Rewards points may not be as liquid as money, he says, but consumers demand fair value for their points.



incentives to the max

On a chilly weekend in January, Terry Quinn is pecking his legs to take what read women call a mileage run. He'll fly from Toronto to Germany and back the next day just to collect the *Aeroplan* points and flight segments to stay in the "super elite" club at his reward program.

On a \$600 ad-on with a strategic stop in Montreal, the mergers and acquisitions consultant will drive with a friend in March, use an upgrade coupon to fly to business class, and rack up 9,000 points. As a frequent traveller who typically books at least 180 flights a year, Quinn figures it's worth the trouble to enjoy a few travel perks while he's on the road.

He says there are no obvious other tricks any savvy traveller can use to max benefits. Here are a few of them.

AIM FOR ELITE-LEVEL STATUS

If you already fly a lot, this is the order to max upgrades: priority boarding, access to lounge, bonus miles and more perks if you can get there. Generally, status is based on the number of flight segments purchased, not simply how many miles you rack up, but that's where a mileage man can make all the difference. Topping up with a

cheap flight if you're near the limit can reap worthwhile benefits you'll enjoy for a year.

CONCENTRATE, CONCENTRATE

Consolidate the miles credits you use with membership in programs you value most. If you can concentrate your miles in a single program and you travel a lot, go with the credit card associated with your online program. If you don't travel much, but want to work toward travel rewards, look for how far an air fare bank credit that allows you to earn points at retail which can then be redeemed for travel info or hotel stays.

DIP ONCE, TWICE, THREE TIMES

Multiply your points. Do more by making a purchase with your preferred airline, hotel or retail company or program, add hotel rental. Dip twice by paying with a credit card that rewards dollars spent with bonus or miles. Dip three times by seeking out bonus offers that help you accumulate faster.

PLAY, BUT PAY

Dip for everything with your rewards credit card—but pay off your balance at the end of the month or as you run out with a

scorekeepers

Keeping track of what's hot and what's new in rewards

Patrick Sofia has been chasing travel rewards since he was 24 years old, when his parents enrolled him in his first frequent flyer program. Since 23 years later, after travelling the world first as a salesman and then as a VP, he's now the founder and publisher of *Rewards Canada*, a Web site that helps people map better travel rewards.

"It's really started off as a hobby in 2001," says Sofia, who updates the Calgary-based site daily. "There are a lot of good Web sites out there about frequent flyer programs, but I couldn't find anything that focused on Canadians."

He started off by simply listing prominent travel offers for frequent flyer programs, listing airlines on how to accumulate extra points and miles. Today, Sofia publishes how-to guides and consolidates information from different programs—a one-stop resource to you in one place, in a glance before you book a trip.

A lot of site information is already covered on travel company Web sites or on newsletters and e-mails, but I find a lot of people just show them, not without really reading them," says Sofia. "People will go and book hotels and flights without realizing that they could have gotten double the miles or points—particularly with the U.S.-based airlines. You might not know this if you're just looking at a vacation through your travel agency."

Sites where to find *Rewards Canada* and some other popular rewards sites:

www.rewardscanada.ca

This Calgary-based site consolidates and compares information about different frequent flyer programs, lists promotional bonus offers and publishes guides on how to accumulate and spend points wisely.

www.flyertalk.com

Toronto's site offers discussion forums to share information and opens other rewards programs. It's a go-to site for the most points and general travel tips (a weekly and previous online community).

www.frequentflyer.com

This site is geared to travellers who use U.S. airlines, but it features an extensive and timely offers page on making the most of award programs, price alerts.

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or visit www.tdgoldtravel.com



1. Cardholder must use the TD Visa Gold Rewards Card issued by Toronto-Dominion Bank (TD) to collect points. TD Points must be redeemed in increments of \$100. Subject to some availability. 2. Offer expires May 31, 2005. Wherever it's charged, accepted, available in any form without extra fees or in connection with any other offer. 3. The terms and conditions of this offer apply to all eligible. *The International Student Visa Card/ TD Express Visa Rewards Card is not eligible of this offer. ©2004 TD Bank Group.

current offers

Tempting new ways to rack up and spend rewards



DINE AND DOUBLE

RBC Royal Bank Visa cardholders enrolled in the RBC Rewards program can earn an extra reward point for each dollar spent during participating restaurants in major U.S. and Canadian cities just repeat once with the Rewards Network Restaurant Program at www.RBCrewards.com, where you can search for participating restaurants. The extra points will automatically accumulate when you pay your bill—calculated on food drinks and tax only.

EITHER FAST

Or the most generous sign-up offer around right now is with the MBNA

Starwood Preferred Guest MasterCard awarded last fall by MBNA Canada Bank and Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide. Starwood includes Sheraton, Hilton, Four Points by Sheraton and W hotels—one you just opened in Montreal. A welcome bonus of 5,000 Starpoints plus another 5,000 points for your first stay at a Starwood hotel adds up enough to collect a free night at more properties.

YourShops on AND AIR MILES

If you regularly shop online at major retailers like eBay, Victoria's Secret, Amazon.com, Chapters or J. Crew, sign up and shop through the YearShops.ca Web site (www.yearshops.ca/AirMiles). You'll earn five reward miles on each purchase plus one reward mile for every \$20 spent through YearShops.ca. Double up if you use an Air Miles credit card and triple up if you buy from an Air Miles sponsor.

PLAY THE REWARDS EXCHANGE

As the currency market of the rewards world, trade in points you don't want for those you value by using the points-exchange service on Points.com. The Web site has a convenient calculator that shows what you get if you exchange, say, your first three points for Starbucks (currently, 1,300 first three points result in a \$7 Starbucks card reward). You might miss a discounted value in return, but no bonus than using unneeded points go unused.

tech to go

Tools to keep you connected

Among the buttloads of gadgets unveiled at January's Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas were a few road-ready tools for the commuter on the go.

A new personal video player called the Q by Don Moscovici is designed so you can take any broadband Internet-connected laptop or a Microsoft LCD screen ported on an Apple one with a built-in keypad, all of which can be used for regular voice calls or video calls. Just attach Q to a laptop or tablet.

Another eye-catcher from Moscovici is the new RADZ V2, an ultra-thin phone made of aircraft-grade aluminum.

You can now take your home theater on the road with the mobile smallest LED projector, aptly named the PocketProjector by Minilabz. Just 14 centimeters and the size of a road, the tiny device clearly projects a 40-inch image onto a plain wall.

On the gadget front, Ford has announced the first PSA—a top-to-the-world Ford Explorer SUV—with its eight megapixels of memory. These smart watches can receive text, transfer reports, stock quotes, movie dates and messages via Microsoft's MSN Messenger service, which

transmits data through FM radio signals.



TD POINTS

Focus on one card in one point for every dollar spent and when cardholders book through the TD Travel Rewards Center without using their TD points they earn 5 points for every dollar spent. For example, if you spend \$1,000 on travel you earn 5,000 points which is worth a value of \$75 (the next time you redeem, there's a 7.5 per cent increase). The card offers a low minimum mile redemption (5,000 per) and TD Points are as good as cash when cardholders redeem—allowing them to take advantage of low sales and later dates. ■

piling up the points

The TD Gold Travel Visa Card allows cardholders to travel without any transaction block on periods at Saturday night stay requirements. TD Points can be redeemed for any type of travel including flights on any airline from around the world plus packaged holidays and hotel travel booked through the TD Travel Rewards Center. A full service travel agency with competitive prices and no booking fees. Because it is a full service travel agency, cardholders can use the TD Travel Rewards Center regardless of whether or not they are redeeming TD Points.

History | BY SUE FERGUSON

FROM HEARTH TO HITLER

Aitken was more than an early Martha Stewart

DOB HERTAP found his foreign mother-in-law intimidating when he first met her in 1946—although not for the usual reasons. “I was just an ordinary guy,” he explains, fresh out of the air force and striding for a charmed accountability. She was Kate Aitken. “We’d been listening to her on the radio every night without fail since I was a child,” recalls the 86-year-old resident of Mississauga, Ont. “My mother was crazy about her.”

Mrs. A—as Aitken was known on air and off—had this effect on a million of listeners. On three daily radio shows over three decades, on the pages of the *Montreal Star* during the 1940s and in a cooking school and a fashion-show host in cities across the country, Canada's doyenne of domesticity ruled good manners, yet firmly, on everything from keeping fruit flies from reinfestation to rooming with clubmates. At her peak in the 1960s, one in three Canadians tuned in to her shows, and the employed 21 assistants and received 260,000 fan letters a year.

An early Martha Stewart? Perhaps, but her expertise extended well beyond hearth and home. The Broom, Ont., shopkeeper's daughter first gained fame in the early 1930s for her thriving poultry farm and catering business, as well as for her work in the local Women's Institute, which she helped found. She was soon looking for the federal department of agriculture and representing Canada abroad on trade missions selling products such as beef and fish. These ventures and later reporting assignments took her over more than three million kilometers through 34 countries. Never questioning a woman's duty to her husband and family, Aitken—who died in 1971 at age 81—would be a postmaster with everyone celebrating International Women's Day this March 8. But



Assignments took her over more than three million kilometers through 34 countries.

own by today's standards, say culinary historian Elizabeth Dover, “she was dynamo.” Aitken launched her radio career literally by accident. In 1934, she was demonstrating a seven-minute soup recipe in a Churchtown radio room when a local radio station manager who heard she was in town

AT HER popularity peak, one in three Canadians tuned into her shows and she received 260,000 fan letters a year

interrupted her presentation. His regular commutes had broken a leg, and he was off Aitken to fill in. She obliged, finishing the recipe on air. Her later broadcasts usually took with cooking tips, but quickly moved on to more serious fare, treating her audience to firsthand accounts of 2938 speeches by Hitler in Berlin, Hungarian refugees fleeing their strife-torn country in 1956 and countless other newsworthy events. Aitken's candor brought her face to face with no-

merous heads of state, including Roosevelt, Stalin and, in 1938, Mussolini, whom she deemed “a shrewd and amusing man.” Pro-apartheid South African president Daniel Malan, on the other hand, was “prejudiced” and “far more dangerous than Hitler or Mussolini.”

Despite shuffling between Montreal and Toronto weekly, Aitken found time to oversee her family's annual production of 12,000 just of press releases, launch 43 “female centers” across Canada as wartime supervisor of clothing conservation, and write seven books. Kate Aitken's Canada-

an Cook Book—Whitney Books Ltd. reprinted the original 1945 edition last year—was once a standard in the country's kitchens. Along with no-messure recipes for mid-century staples such as chicken pot pie and mince-dumplings, it included the occasional Note to Bachelors: “All the sides of the casserole are offered, the soufflé stays as it is,” read one tip. “A soufflé can be a clinging time and be successful.”

Aitken's strength of character, according to son-in-law Hertap, had little to do with being a feminist. “In the early days, the simply needed to earn money,” he says. “Her husband wasn't great as a provider.” Yet, Mrs. A did educate for women. On her retirement in 1957, she called for roles in Canadian broadcasting “diplomatic,” and insisted they “have to learn or become aware of new values than men... which helps in the evolution of news and how it affects, not one individual, but the whole family of humanity.” Eight years earlier, before leaving for a trip to open on women's and children's issues, she told an interviewer, “If women believe in anything strongly and go out and do it, they are revolutionizing the world.” While today's feminist would quibble with some of Aitken's views, that's a sentiment they may want to reclaim. ■



LOOKING FOR MR. CHIPS

Some experts contend that boys suffer from the lack of male teachers

BY THE MOONBELL Jason Jermy is starting to fade. Since arriving at King Albert Pub School in Lindsay, Ont., at 7:30 a.m., he's prepped lessons, corrected papers and run 20 Grade 1 students ragged around the gym—before returning to his home room, a fourth graders to review lessons on kinetic energy, electrical circuits and long division, and to lay out the principles of calculating discounts, sales tax and interest. Along the way, he's told

students, deal with a boy too tickle or bored to keep his head from falling onto his desk, and cajoled a girl who hasn't spoken a word to him since writing him grade five maths ago. Other days, he's busy patching hurt feelings and playground wounds and getting kids to read or do homework. "Sometimes, honestly," says Jermy, 36, whose wife is expecting their second child this month, "I feel more like a parent than a teacher."

More like a mother, you might say. Teaching elementary school has long been seen as women's work precisely because it involves so much caregiving. That started to change

in the 1970s when a shortage drew a trickle of men into the profession at the primary level, and more for higher grades. In 1988, males accounted for 41 per cent of all Canada's teachers. But guys, it turns out, don't have the staying power. Now, only one in three public school teachers are men (one in 10 at the elementary level in Ontario).

And with 40 per cent due to retire in the next decade and a shrinking pool of male applicants for teacher-training, males will be never still in the future. (The same trends are evident in

Britain, Australia and the U.S.) But as we were faced with 30 Mr. Chips, the question some are asking is, will the kids—especially the boys—miss him?

Jermy set his sights on teaching early in life—in Grade 7, when he abandoned his dream of playing professional hockey. "I always got along with younger kids," he explains. "I looked after my cousin and helped out in my church nursery school." But a significant number of boys today "believe teaching is women's work, and men can't be nurturing," says David Hill, Jermy's boss and director of education at the Lindsay-based William Lakeland District School Board, 90 minutes northwest of Toronto. Ontario university and high school students surveyed for a recent report on

Jermy's early experience with young kids led him to the profession

men in teaching was ordered by 11 school they were also turned off by the profession's low salaries—an average of \$39,700 for elementary and \$42,500 for secondary teachers in 2000. In well, they cut in behind general public status results upon the turmoil between teachers and government in recent years, and the may but alarming possibility of being wrongly accused of professional misconduct. (Discrimination, however, is not an issue: men enter teacher education programs in proportion to the number that apply and, accordingly, are more likely than women to succeed into administration.)

Jermy agrees the pay and bad press against teaching can be tough. But false accusations, he insists, are "one of the scariest things about being a teacher." Although such incidents are extremely rare, he would

'A SIGNIFICANT number of boys today' says a school board director, 'believe men can't be nurturing'

believe there is the classroom with a student as much as possible and, when he is, taken care to keep his door open and advise the teacher across the hall. Men also have to deal with the occasional parent, says Paul Brown, a second-grade teacher at Calgary's Socine Acres School, "who believes all males in elementary are perverts." Even those who won't say so directly will wonder, he adds, "why you're really there."

It's the report recommends that school boards take some small steps to reverse the so-called feminization of teaching. These include encouraging older boys to tutor or mentor younger students and promoting teaching careers. It also suggests they explore ways to make it easier for people in mid-career to switch into teaching. Lindsay, these proposals an added sense of urgency as growing concern about how poorly boys are doing academically in a 10-steps—most evident in lagging literacy skills and higher dropout rates. Men in the classrooms, the thinking goes, connect better with boys, and that motivates them to learn.

But down a minute—men're on sensitive territory. Isn't this the same as saying women teachers are less effective than their male counterparts? Although Jermy, in his

third year of teaching, wouldn't go that far, he does see an advantage to men teaching boys. "I know the energy boys have," he says. "I've been there." He points out as well that, when dealing with behaviour issues, the teachers "in bigger and older schools I don't want to be intimidating, but a little fear breeds respect." Even against that history, initially perceptive men is tougher. But they soon discover otherwise. As a general rule, he notes, "guys play more than women. I don't know why, but all male teachers I know find around with their classes a lot."

Tougher but not too far off around. Does that turn up the male teacher? Some experts aren't convinced that pedagogical styles are gender-linked. "There are plenty of differences in the way men and women use language and relate to others," says Jane Gaskell, dean of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. "But there's a huge overlap" between the sexes, and no definitive research indicating men and women teach differently. More important, she adds, "nothing suggests either men or women are more effective teachers in terms of outcomes." Hill acknowledges as much. "Bottom line," he says, "what matters is having a good teacher."

Named above, he and Gary Jones, a veteran elementary school teacher and a literacy specialist with the Calgary Board of Education, both call for further research to find out what they intuitively sense. "You may not see it one group or the other," says Jones, who runs a study group called males in education. "But for many children—perhaps more often for boys—to have a male in that year of their lives can make them enjoy school more, and perhaps work harder."

For Gaskell, the more compelling argument for gender balance in schools is that by interacting with young children in caring, respectful and imaginative ways, men give kids "images of reasonability that are more flexible and open." That seems like a no-brainer—and Jermy, Hill, Brown and Jones all brought up. Yet recent Australian study of 88 preschools found the mere presence of a male teacher doesn't, in fact, challenge stereotypes. Gaskell cautions that such change is extremely gradual and not nearly hard to measure. And the suggestion more men in schools "could begin to change all kinds of things about the ways that boys are in the world," including, perhaps, their belief teaching isn't for them.

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GOLD'S FADED GLEAM

Warring over resources
leaves Congolese poor

THE DEMOCRATIC Republic of the Congo is the scene of the deadliest conflict in the world. Since war erupted in 1998, the armies of at least six neighboring countries have poured across its borders. The death toll stands at some four million deaths—and the violence continues, especially in the eastern region. The cause of the bloodshed? Greed. Within the general African nation's boundaries are vast mineral resources, including gold, diamonds, coltan (a valuable ore used in mobile phones) and cassiterite (the base ore of tin). Both domestic and foreign powers are willing to fight for control of the deposits.

In October, Montreal photographer Roger Lenoyne visited the gold mines of Congo's troubled eastern region, on a grant from the Alaska Foundation for World Peace. Many of the large international companies that once mined there have pulled out. Now poor Congolese work the area with the most rudimentary technology. For most of the miners—including children orphaned by the conflict—this brings in just enough money to survive another day. A selection of Lenoyne's photos.



ON THE WEB www.rolandlenoyne.ca/gallery

For a little gold, barefoot men prospect and work mines without safety measures in place. Even children toil in the tiny, makeshift tunnels. For most, there for all this is just enough money to survive another day.



Men use shovels and buckets to dig in a mine in Mongolia. A river takes a dip in the water of an open pit mine near Dulai (top).

DOGS, DRUGS AND MORE DRUGS

In one movie, canines restore joy; in two others, various substances extinguish it

AT ONCE SWEETLY SENTIMENTAL and crumbly commercial, *Daniel and the Supertogs* is as eager to please as a puppy. After his mother dies suddenly, the 11-year-old title character starts getting into trouble. When one stunt kendo overs neighbor's corner home, Daniel (Matthew Harbour) pays off his debt by working as her kennel boy to train performers in the local Supertogs exhibition (that's the popular fang-and-tongue-fluttering regular family dogs—almost half rescued from animal shelters—and their crowd-pleasing

tricks). With the help of a sassy Jack Russell named Copsie, Daniel recovers his joy in life.

The film ought to be awful, given its minor plot passages—no fewer than seven government agencies funded what it, in large part, a feature-length ad for Supertogs—and its desire to be all things to all customers. *Daniel* was shot in French and English versions. In the latter, with every trace of the film's Quebec origins expunged, the mostly francophone cast—backed up by international stars Claire Bloom and Jan Rubes—appear to be from nowhere at all, generic North Americans with weird accents.

But despite all that, the film's endearing it's the dogs and the children, of course. W.C. Fields was quite right to have performed with them. With its gentle tone, line act, and the young leads—especially Anne Bonavent as April, the pretty-with-braces romantic interest—and some of the canine stars, ever filmed, *Daniel* exerts a jilt-bull-like grip on the heartstrings. **BRIAN KOPPEL**

IT'S EASY to forget that Alvin Brady won an Academy Award two years ago. All you have to do is watch (though I'm not recommending it) his strong-of-dreadful performance since his Oscar-winning role in *The Piano*—from a small role in *The Singing Detective* to his overacting in *M. Night Shyamalan's* disaster *The Village*. Now add *The Jacket*, his first lead role since winning as best actor, to that list. Brady plays Jack Starke, a wounded Gulf War vet suffering from amnesia who ends up in a mental hospital. Under the unorthodox care of Dr. Becker (Jim Keady), Starke is purged of all experimental drugs, strapped in a straitjacket and locked in a morgue drawer the hours at a time to "reset" his memories.

But the real torture is having to sit through the 165-minute film, which shifts between present (1992) and future (2007) whenever Brady's lockdown. Keady's uneven performance as Starke's only friend does nothing to help this fragmented story. Director John Dahl's use of quick cuts and toxic music seems merely cheap. And too many key moments are laughable—thanks mainly to Brady's ex-Oscar-like acting. **JOHN BYRNE**

CLEAN is notable as perhaps the first feature to use the evils and amusements of India's and place in Hamilton comedy office. And admirably for a movie about drug addiction, this Canada-France-U.K. co-production keeps the substance-induced nightmare to a minimum—the only one instance of the backdated heroin "orgasm" scene. On the

other hand, the characters and narrative are so dry, you almost wish Chase would get out of rehab and turn into a mad scientist. The movie pivots on the narcissistic Emily (Maggie Cheung), a failed indie rock singer who married to Lee, another failed indie rocker and junkie. After he fatally ODs in a drug motel room in Hamilton, the only sort of town where he can get gigs, Emily does time in jail for possession. Then she moves to Paris and tries to get her life together in order to regain custody of the couple's young son, Jay, who they long ago left in the care of Lee's parents (Nick Nolte and Martha Hieney), in Vancouver.

But the way Cheung plays Emily, you don't get much sense of emotional adoration or anything else, for that matter. Co-writer-director Oliver Assayas, from whom Cheung is now divorced, keeps the camera trained on her face. It is a beautiful idea, if lacking the regal bearing Cheung deployed in her best known (*Wingman*) role, in *Wingman* was co-writer and hit in the *Mad Max* franchise. Too bad that in *Clean*, she's merely a person beneath that lovely exterior. **PATRICIA KILGORE**



Given this and other recent performances, it's wonder Brady ever won an Academy Award



Center Island's giant stone heads were once a landscape threat to crews—and, almost, to people

horrific destruction reduced the population by 70 per cent within a century. What's truly worrying about the fate of the islanders, as Diamond stresses, is that the devastation was the work of people who once have lived what was happening. Cook's crew, who never allowed the Grand Banks cod fishery—one of the planet's greatest food reserves—to be plundered almost to extinction, was handy in a position to judge.

And Diamond can point to cultures which made the hard choice, in that last time visible. The tiny Pacific island of Tikopia has suffered about 1,250 people for 5,000 years.

The Tikopians were ruthless about population pressure. Banned (except by cosmic interruption), abortion, infanticide and suicide enforced stability. Diamond expresses a sober respect for this sort of bloody small-scale survival, as well as noting that modern conservation makes his worst aspects necessary for contemporary societies.

But he also finds something admirable, as well as deeply stupid, in the adolescent refusal of Greenland's isolated Norse colony to take for smaller measures. For 400 years, before they vanished in the 15th century, Norse workers flourished. But the climate got colder, and deforestation—the villain in all of Diamond's disaster tales—preceeded catastrophe. And still the Norse refused to eat fish. Ever. Food taboos have always been a key element in the social glue that holds cultures together, by differentiating insiders from outsiders. Right up to when the last inhabitant died of starvation—in a land where fish can be caught by hand—the Norse never lost their sense of who they were.

Much of what Diamond describes has uneasy echoes today, in places as far apart as Australia and Rwanda. For all our technological prowess, he shows, moderns are no smarter than Easter Islanders—on the evidence, we may be less intelligent than Tikopians. Some of the virtues that built the First World, like the North American dream of unbridled consumption, are no longer viable. The question at the heart of *Collapse* is which way will we choose? **B**



COLLAPSE HOW SOCIETIES DISAPPEARED TO SUGGEST OP. PAUL JARRED Diamond Penguin \$44.95

WHY PEOPLES DISAPPEAR

Cautionary lessons from long-vanished societies

JARED DIAMOND has a new fifth book to do. His Pulitzer Prize-winning explanation of how the West conquered the world is neatly summed up on its cover: *Guns, Germs and Steel*. When the UCLA geographer came to consider the fate of now-vanished peoples—Easter Islanders and Norse Greenlanders among them—who did not fall victim to alien microbes or superior technology, he chose a title that makes it clear he thinks we can survive our own environmental misdeeds. *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* offers less straightforward history than Diamond's previous volumes, one more concerned with the discussion of cause and effect. It's all the more compelling for that.

Two themes run through Diamond's history of societal collapse: the futility of humanity to arrive in new settings that respectably look like home, and the way in which the more values that make a culture thrive can later turn on it. When the first settlers arrived on Easter Island 1,100 years

ago, they built a Polynesian culture much like any other, distinguished primarily by the colossal stone heads that have fascinated theorists since they first found them.

Unknown to the islanders, as they cleared the abundant tree cover, Easter is at the high-risk end of every deforestation variable, from low rainfall to the low amounts of fertile wind-blown volcanic ash that reach it. Yet the demand for wood was so strong, not the least for transporting statues, that clear-cutting continued until there were no trees left by around 1650. The result was



WHITE TOPS, GREY BOTTOMS

What are public schools really hoping to accomplish with dress codes?

NOT LONG AGO, my 15-year-old son received a detention. He had to stay after school not for inappropriate language or behavior, but because his shirt was unbuttoned. Although I usually allow room for some outfit misbehavior—and even, at times, misbehavior in his version of events, I believe him on this one. And that's because I've become acquainted with the Uniforms. In Quebec, they're among the parents, teachers and school administrators on the governing boards that run the schools.

By these children, all in the public system, go to elementary and high schools with strict

dress codes. I've never been completely in favor of all this uniformity. When I was in kindergarten in 1955-56, I had to wear a navy-blue pleated skirt to school. Not long after that, the school abandoned this requirement because, according to the then latest thinking, wearing a uniform stifled self-expression and creativity. Now, the reverse wisdom is quite different: uniforms are supposed to "create an environment conducive to learning" and a source of "consistency among students." Fair enough, I suppose, given the intense, often punitive conservatism and cliquishness that plague many schools today.

Still, I have a number of questions, starting with: How much uniformity is uniform enough? All my kids and all their classmates wear some variation of white shirts and grey pleated skirts or slacks. The school my 15-year-old attends also insists on a particular brand of shoe. I can understand requiring a certain style,

but no one has yet explained to me why one make should be sanctioned. Meanwhile, both schools keep changing which style of shoe they deem acceptable. Oxfords, Vans, polo shoes (no keep track!) And the latest decision: no sunglasses on collared or pleated.

So why all this what and why? Do we want our schools to be sensory deprivation zones? Live nothing wrong with leaving a child wear a blue, pink or yellow shirt as long as it's in the prescribed style. Besides, there's the environmental degradation that keeping white shirts white is causing—I'd never wash bleach before my kids entered these schools!

Have other concerns. Our high school has a devoted cadre of volunteers who run the uniforms, generating tens of thousands of dollars a year. This money is put toward many things that only the school board's responsibility: new musical instruments, a fresh coat of paint once there once every seven years, equipment for dissections, computers, libraries, etc. It also goes spent on extras: lavish graduation dinners, an unbelievable number of academic trips. For graduation, European exchange trips.



LUCKY GUY

So requiring students to wear uniforms, in effect, functions as an invisible school fee, over and above the taxes we all pay. Maybe if we were more up-front about this we'd demand more money from our governments, or at least that our school boards make better use of the coming funds.

The surprising truth is most parents I speak with feel the uniforms are a blessing. They are relieved to not have daily arguments about appropriate dress. As for the school officials, a second one reason they've chosen a particular compromised dress is that it's only available in adult sizes. The

previously acceptable shirt was also available in children's sizes, which on some high school girls were extremely tight and sloppy.

But I question whether we are really doing our kids any favors by abdicating our authority to the school bureaucracy. There's need to face head-on the challenges these uniforms try to cover over with grey flannel. There have a problem with the downright shaming dress of some of our daughters, tattoos, body piercing or outlandish hair colour, we should deal with these things ourselves. Back up, people! Learn to say, "No, that is not appropriate dress for school. When you are a responsible adult, you can choose whether or not to conform to society's expectations." No further explanation necessary.

Finally, I suspect the Uniforms have secret motivation behind their fashion agenda: it makes public schools

seemable, in the most superficial way, the exclusive private schools that pepper my Montreal neighborhood. I simply do not share that aspiration. We should be proud that our kids go to public schools, whatever reasons, religious and socio-economic, shape a community—just like the real world they will eventually enter. My kids love their schools. And I'm grateful for all the hard work the dedicated, careful

staff, devoted teachers, concerned administrators and dynamic parent volunteers put in. I know—and so does my son—that by his age, he shouldn't be wandering about with his shirt hanging out. But I wish the administration was more concerned with the originality of my kids' minds, and less concerned about the conventionality of their dress. In the final analysis, shouldn't their education be more about content, and less about form? **B**

Dev Akeman is a research scientist and freelance writer in Montreal. To contact: dev@devakeman.ca



Bruce Mau finishes John Intini's sentences

World-renowned design guru Bruce Mau covers off a little bit shy and speaks almost in a whisper—a stark contrast to the boldness of his work. His latest project, *Massive Change* (at Toronto's Art Gallery of Ontario) is on March 11 to May 20, is an ambitious multimedia exhibition on the future of design. Mike, 48, recently finished *Intini's* Associate Editor John Intini's sentences.

I LEARN THE MOST FROM dead people. My work is an extension of influences from people like John Cage and Marshall McLuhan.

THE SONG THAT OTTOM FIND MYSELF humming is Gar's on the Credit by Henry Chaplin. It's a cautionary tale

about a man who becomes successful and loses touch with his family. I sing it to my girls all the time.

CITIES are not vacation spots for me. I need a very natural place. THE AUTHOR I MOST RESPECT is Ursula K. Le Guin. There are a lot of sentences, including car engines and physical traits. I just hope I don't end up like him.

I LOVE A MENTOR because it's perfect for a bunch of the with mentors and gnomes.

THE MOST ANNOYING THING IS, sound. I get very irritable over almost any type of sound, but most often it's other people's music.

FOR MORE "JOHN INTINI'S SENTENCES" VISIT WWW.MAUDESIGN.CO.PEOPLE

Books | Ethnic cleansing in Canada

Just when historian John Mack Faragher took the title for *A Great and Noble Scheme*, his meticulous account of the Acadian Expulsion, from a gleeful dispatch in the *Protestant Gazette*. With considerably more truth, Acadians have always called it a brutal and ugly war—the great upheaval. In 1759, the British refused to settle for the 10,000 strong Acadian resistance in the coming war with France. After the New Englanders began to deport them to desert camps as far apart as Louisiana and Alaska, thousands were killed, and countless families separated, while harker writers took their land. As he looks at the case in a new ethnic cleansing.

Faragher discovered that the deportations—and their second-rate—look like to Canada. The evidence, Faragher later found records missing or altered to prove it wasn't until 2003 that the Crown accepted its responsibility and designated July 28 as "Day of Commemoration of the Great Expulsion."



A GREAT AND NOBLE SCHEME
John Mack Faragher
Penguin
\$42.50

Best Sellers

Fiction

- | | WEEKS ON LIST | LAST WEEK |
|--|---------------|-----------|
| 1. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> by Lisa Fiedler | 1 | 1 |
| 2. <i>A COMPASSIONATE MIND</i> by Stephen King | 2 | 2 |
| 3. <i>THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW</i> by Ruth Ware | 3 | 3 |
| 4. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> by Lisa Fiedler | 4 | 4 |
| 5. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> by Lisa Fiedler | 5 | 5 |
| 6. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> by Lisa Fiedler | 6 | 6 |
| 7. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> by Lisa Fiedler | 7 | 7 |
| 8. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> by Lisa Fiedler | 8 | 8 |
| 9. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> by Lisa Fiedler | 9 | 9 |
| 10. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> by Lisa Fiedler | 10 | 10 |

Non-fiction

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> by Lisa Fiedler | 1 |
| 2. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> by Lisa Fiedler | 2 |
| 3. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> by Lisa Fiedler | 3 |
| 4. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> by Lisa Fiedler | 4 |
| 5. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> by Lisa Fiedler | 5 |
| 6. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> by Lisa Fiedler | 6 |
| 7. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> by Lisa Fiedler | 7 |
| 8. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> by Lisa Fiedler | 8 |
| 9. <i>THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN</i> by Lisa Fiedler | 9 |
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Lianne George | ON POP CULTURE



Just 'cause it works for Madonna

When it comes to pop-star reinvention, change is not always a good thing

WHEN JENNIFER Lopez took the stage at this year's Grammy Awards, she brought little evidence of her former selves. A Lumbiano and ghetto fabulous—was just a distant memory. As was down-home Jerry from the Block, of the ill-fated *Benetton* period, with her colourful terry cloth coats made famous. Lopez performed with a new, heavy-lidded intensity. On what appeared to be the set of a *Telemundo* soap opera, she sang a fragile Spanish duet with her new husband Marc Anthony—her eyes closed, genuine emotion. For her first, this performer wasn't just a rare no-growing-up tale of her opening new album, *Rebirth*—it was also a crash course in her latest incarnation: Jennifer Lopez, Flory Lanna *It's a Wonderful*.

Currently, popular music appears to be gripped by a sort of conservatism. It's as if the whiff of scandal or overexposure, can ruin one's career by just by not being interesting—now things, new meanings, new badness—and then proceeding in this version of themselves to be the real version. Take Mariah

Carrie. This spring, the album it set to release her post-*emotional* comeback album, *The Christmas* version of *Wishes* (apart from, her nick name). The idea for this project, says Carrie, was to reveal, once and for all, "the real version of who I am." So, in other words, just scratch that other stuff.

Then something vaguely convincing and hopeful about a celebrity reinvention. (Given *Calvin Klein*).

Maybe we should blame Madonna. As the architect of the image-morphing art model, she proved that, in a few rare cases, rapid-fire change in the key to longevity. More likely, it's a symptom of the Kennedy short attention span of North American audiences. Due to a certain power,

when even a new model is not wearing face over, you have to wonder what's fundamentally broken in an artist's career. The answer is usually simple: the art. In any relationship, it's hard to admit when the magic's gone—but dignity is key. No one's going to want to buy a Jennifer Lopez album if she's not *It's a Wonderful*. Can't Change.

For comment: lianne.george@mcclains.ca



Chas Lawther

HOW TO SEEM SMART

Writer Chas Lawther resolved to devote two months to becoming smart. Quickly, he realized becoming REALLY smart might require more time, but in two months, he could learn to SEEM smart.

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Money's Worth | Air Fresheners

Souped-up scent delivery

MARCH It's that restless time of year when we find ourselves trapped indoors with more weeks to go before spring, and a winter's worth of stale air to breathe. Here are solutions, long-time outdoors enthusiasts use one of the souped-up air fresheners now available. In the past two years, sales of air fresheners have surged thanks in part to a slew of "high-tech" models equipped with features like automatic spritzers and cycling fans. Interior research expert Don Manikoff attributes their popularity to people's desire to feel their homes are fresh and clean even when they're too busy to do any actual cleaning. "The fact that it's a nifty gadget too is a bonus," he says. We tested four different models.



THE VERDICT: Overall, scents are very strong, even on the lowest settings. Also, air fresheners come with a myriad of warnings—such as "Keep out of reach of children and pets"—that warrant serious consideration.

OUR PICK: We like the **High Light** for its auto-on, auto-off, programmable features and sleek design. You'll still have to live with a fairly big light bulb.



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Banana Bread, Pomegranate Breeze, Silvery Cedars

TIP: To avoid your home smelling too good, use a moderate amount of drops and essential oils.

NOTES

Wisp's Garden is fresh and floral, with a hint of vanilla. Even in the bedroom, it's not too strong. It's a good idea to use it in the bedroom, especially in the morning, to wake up with a fresh scent.

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Mandarin & Spice is a fresh, uplifting, and slightly spicy. It's a good idea to use it in the bedroom, especially in the morning, to wake up with a fresh scent.

Banana Bread is a fresh, uplifting, and slightly spicy. It's a good idea to use it in the bedroom, especially in the morning, to wake up with a fresh scent.

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ROWING WITH ONE OAR

The U.S. is falling behind in higher education—but we're not cashing in

AT LEAST THE WAY ASEP[®] WROTE IT, when the here takes a snap the increase is supposed to pass the mirable line. It's no time for the universe to snap its

Frequent readers may notice my obsession with research and higher education. On this the Americans have been spectacularly dropping the ball. So why has Canada's government decided it's a snap time for us too?

In a letter of ways Ralph Goodale gave us a good budget last week. It keeps Canada out of the red, trims taxes, boosts money all over, starts refuelling our military. It probably

saved the Liberals from defeat in Parliament.

But it's a bony world. You can't just survive a crisis, you have to spot opportunity and make decisions. The Americans' neglect of their knowledge economy is a huge opportunity. Other countries are scrambling to take advantage. If we realize, we will lose. Here's the state of play.

The Americans risk blowing their lead. It's taking a while. It's a huge lead. Half the world's doctoral students study in the United States. "Federal support of science and engineering research in universities and national laboratories has been key to American prosperity for more than half a century," a coalition of leading U.S. such industry firms and associations wrote in a new study. And now? "Our advantage is eroding rapidly."

say the study's authors, the Task Force on the Future of American Innovation.

Individual states' support for American universities has eroded. Tensons have run so high to compensate that the great gift of widespread access to higher education is endangered. Security concerns after 9/11 are making it harder for international students to get into U.S. schools. Many, feeling unwelcome, simply don't bother. Foreign graduate student enrolment fell in the U.S. by six per cent from 2002-03 to 2003-04. Applications fell by 28 per cent there may be less research anyway. George W. Bush's proposed budget for fiscal year 2006 increases funding for basic research by less than inflation.



The rest of the world is scrambling to take up the slack. From 1996 to 2003, the number of Chinese enrolled in higher education in Canada rose from two million to 16 million. Asia is gaining on the United States in the number of science and engineering papers published, and Western Europe passed the U.S. a decade ago. U.S. patent applications from China, India, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan grew by 739 per cent from 1989 to 2001—6½ times as fast as patent applications from the U.S.

Even with all those Asian staying at home, the number of students crossing national borders to pursue diploma-level education will quadruple to 72 million in 2025. The delivery of that global brain market will grow fivefold in the same period. Smart economies want that market. Singapore plans to triple college-student population, from 30,000 to 130,000, by 2012. Singapore has persuaded some of the world's best schools

to open campuses on its territory. Johns Hopkins, MIT, France's INRSAD, Germany's Technical University of Munich.

"The leaders and followers are emerging now," says Mitch Levenshal, an American managing an international education. "In just 10 years, the landscape will be unrecognizable. Students will condemn you to the educational backbone no matter where you are physically located."

Which brings us to Canada. Our federal government began pushing hard to develop Canada's knowledge economy almost a decade ago. Funding increases for university-based research will total \$11 billion from 1998-99 to 2006-07. That's why so many universities have been such construction zones. It was a heroic effort. Paul Martin played a big part in it.

And the air has gone right out of it. Goodale's budget increased federal research funding by far less than the last several budgets did. This year the knowledge economy will get less than a quarter of the \$468 million the feds poured the sector in 2000-02.

It's true that Alberta and Ontario have belatedly turned serious attention to revamping higher education. British Columbia is creating 35,000 new university spaces that you can't run with one ear. Canada has fallen from fifth to ninth on a global distinction for international students. The January 2004 Tokyo Speech committed Canada to becoming one of the top five countries in the world for research and development by 2010. Two years later, in 2003, we remained stuck at 13th.

We need research budgets to keep growing. We need way more private sector R&D. We need better high schools to feed our universities. We need strong colleges that prepare recent high schoolers. I'm sad Ralph Goodale hopes to deal with all that next budget. But we don't know yet. The world will not even pause to wave as it passes us by.

To comment, email paul@paulwells.ca or send Paul a letter to: "Back Page," c/o www.mcgill.ca/paulwells



Rob Martin

Every Canadian loves a challenge, right?

On average, each Canadian produces five tonnes of greenhouse gases a year. Driving, heating and cooling our homes, using appliances... almost anything we do that uses fossil fuels for energy also creates greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. And these emissions are causing our climate to change.

Take the One-Tonne Challenge – reduce your energy use and your GHG emissions by 20%, or even more. You'll save money, and help to protect our climate and our air quality.

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Buy the most fuel-efficient vehicle

that meets your everyday needs. Reduce your GHGs by up to one tonne a year while saving money on fuel costs. Consult the *2004 Consumption Guide* at vehicles.gc.ca.



Is your house cold and drafty in the winter?

Get an *EneGuide* for Homes evaluation to find out how to save energy and make it more comfortable. You may also qualify for a Government of Canada grant for poor energy efficiency renovations. Visit energysolutions.gc.ca/pse/pse.html.



Replace five standard bulbs with ENERGY STAR[®]

qualified compact fluorescent bulbs, in areas where lights are left on the longest, and you can reduce your GHGs and save about \$36 in electricity per year.



Visit climatechange.gc.ca/environ for a listing of energy efficiency plans, incentives and rebates offered by governments, utilities and the private sector.



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Canada



Change your perceptions

DID YOU KNOW THAT MILK, YOGURT AND CHEESE ACCOUNT ON AVERAGE FOR LESS THAN 18%* OF CANADIANS' TOTAL DAILY FAT INTAKE?



In addition, milk products are an important source of many vitamins and minerals. Not surprising that Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating recommends we consume two to four servings per day.

To learn more, visit www.changeperceptions.ca.

